



FARMERS' DIRE BREXIT WARNING

Report by Sue Austin

THERE will be casualties in the agricultural world if Britain ends up with a "bad Brexit", a leading Oswestry farmer has warned.

Worries over Brexit featured heavily in conversations at Saturday's Oswestry Show.

Although the show itself was another huge success, talk among farmers included immediate worries over the dry summer and feed shortages and long term fears over Brexit.

Oswestry farmer Malcolm Roberts, chairman of the NFU regional board, called on the public to buy British or face a future where the nation won't be able to feed itself. Mr Roberts, a sheep and cattle farmer, said: "There is huge concern over Brexit out there.

"The fall-out from Brexit if we get no deal or a bad deal will be enormous, particularly for the sheep farmers.



Malcolm Roberts

"All sections could suffer but sheep farmers are going to be more vulnerable because so much lamb from Britain is exported to Europe. "If we get a bad Brexit there will be casualties in the industry, farmers will go out of business unless they can put things in plan now to lessen the blow. Farmers run businesses and like other businesses they will have mortgages and loans to fulfil. Farmers need to look at their vulnerability and try to safeguard as much as they can. The public also has to help by buying British food.

"If the industry loses farmers and we stop producing food then there will come a time when we won't be able to feed the country."

Other farmers also voiced their Brexit concerns during Saturday's show.

Bob Griffiths, a dairy farmer from Myddle, said: "I am worried about how agriculture will fare in what will be a shrinking economy.

"Then there is the question of labour. Many farm enterprises, particularly arable, depend on European labour."

Charles Evans from Halton near Chirk, another dairy farmer, said with all the uncertainty farmers could not plan for the future.

He said: "We run businesses and like all businesses we need to invest and update equipment. At the moment we can't plan for the future because we don't know what the future will be."

Speaking at the show, North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson said: "Farmers are saying to me, just get on with it."

● Thousands – See Page 24

Blooming heck, the town is in Premier League



Oswestry In Bloom committee chairman Betty Gull, judge Rae Beckwith, Mayor Sandy Best and judge James Cordingley during the tour

THE new Premier League football season is due to kick off this weekend but finger-fingered enthusiasts in Oswestry reckon the town has already moved into the top flight when it comes to Britain in Bloom.

The town has welcomed judges from the UK-wide competition after it was named a gold winner in the contest's regional awards, winning through to the national finals.

National judges last week spent a day looking at the floral displays and hearing about the community spirit that took Oswestry to the UK finals.

Town crier Phil Brown welcomed the judges with a poetic cry before they were shown into a busy Cae Glas Park.

The Oswestry In Bloom committee has been helped by Oswestry Town Council which cares for the park and runs a hanging baskets and planters scheme.

Councillor Steve Mason said getting Oswestry looking so beautiful took a lot of effort by volunteers, businesses and the town council. He said: "A lot of investment had gone into the park and the staff work really hard. "We are proud of the park.

"We are the smallest in the large town category of the competition and with Britain in Bloom we have moved up into the Premier League."

One of the judges, Rae Beckwith, said the Britain in Bloom competition had whittled

down some 1,600 communities to 76 taking part in the national finals.

He said judges were looking not only for floral quality but also community projects.

He said: "It is all about quality of life and how In Bloom can help make areas such great places in which to live and work."

Mr Beckwith said in recent years judges had noticed a significant improvement in the state of pavements including far less chewing gum.

"We are also seeing a distinct improvement in the amount of litter, particularly plastics," he said.

"It seems David Attenborough's call to use less plastic and prevent it getting into the oceans has been taken up by the public."

CRIME

Cyprus hit and run murder trial is adjourned by court

THE trial of a man accused of murdering a Welshpool holidaymaker in an alleged hit and run crash has been adjourned until September.

The 35-year-old man appeared before Paphos Criminal Court in Cyprus on Friday last week where he faced charges of murder and premeditated murder of 39-year-old Charlie Birch. The incident in June also left Will Pritchard from Welshpool with injuries. The trial was due to begin last week but the court adjourned the proceedings to September 19 for the case file to be completed.

The defendant could face a life sentence and was remanded in custody until the trial date.

The court heard from defence lawyer Savvas Matsas who said a number of statements were not included in the evidence as well as the results of blood tests.

A 23-year-old woman was in the car with the defendant at the time of the incident but she was released without charge.

The defendant is alleged to have hit the two tourists with his car in the early hours of June 24, leading to the death of father-of-two Mr Birch and causing injuries to his brother-in-law Mr Pritchard.

The defendant says that the incident was an accident.

TRANSPORT

A483 route most deadly road in Wales

FIGURES have revealed the A483 road is the most deadly in Wales and the second most dangerous in the UK.

The road passes Oswestry and heads towards Welshpool and on to Carmarthenshire. Data gathered for the Department of Transport identified the A483 as one of the most dangerous in Wales and UK, just behind the A1 road in Rutland. The A483 had the highest rate of fatal traffic accidents in Wales, with 4,312 per 10,000 residents between 2012 and 2016.

INSIDE

Colourful fun at new festival



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More families having to use food bank in town

Report by Jonny Drury

THE number of families using a food bank in Oswestry has risen by 80 per cent in the last year, it has been revealed.

Oswestry and Borders Foodbank was started in 2011 to help individuals and families who have fallen on hard times.

Last year it supplied 1,600 emergency food packages, however in this financial year that number has risen to 23,000.

Also the number of families who get supplies has risen from 10 to 18, an 80 per cent rise.

Warnings have been issued that thousands of families in Shropshire will have to cut their weekly food bill, due to the roll-out of universal credit.

Warned

Liz Jermy, manager of the food bank, warned the issue will not be going away anytime soon.

She said: "We would like for there to be no need for a foodbank and we could shut our doors but that isn't going to happen."

"We have definitely seen an increase over the last year, since the last financial year."

"Everyone has a different story about why they are coming to the food bank."

"Some people have had a work ethic for 30 years then have fallen ill and had a mortgage to pay."

"We have seen people come in and be shocked as they didn't think they would have to come to a food bank, men have walked in here and broke down."

Around 45 volunteers work on the Oswestry and Borders Foodbank.

Foodbanks and organisations have now come together to identify the towns and villages across the county in most need of help.

Liz said that the foodbank also does more than just supply food to those in need.

She added: "We give them advice on other things."

"The local council have been great and helped us with a grant for debt advice."

"We talk to people and help them as much as we can."

New plaque explains trees' significance



Supporters of the project joined Oswestry Mayor Sandy Best for the unveiling of the plaque

A PLAQUE has been unveiled explaining how 35 trees planted through the years represent soldiers from Oswestry who died in the Second World War.

A number of trees were planted on Brynhaod Field in the years following the war to commemorate and remember those from Oswestry who died. However when different works took place at the field, the trees were felled. This is when the Old Boys Association in Oswestry stepped in to re-plant the trees to remember the fallen soldiers.

They have worked over the years entirely through donations to plant, in total, 35 trees to remember 35 soldiers.

The last of the trees was planted around 12 years ago, but members of the association realised that not a lot of people know what the trees stand for.

So with the help of various donations and organisations, a plaque has been made with the names of all the soldiers, and explanations as to where their trees are and what they stand for.

Around £2,000 in total has gone into the project and the plaque was unveiled by Oswestry mayor Sandy Best with a number of officials in attendance.

Dan Powell of the Old Boys Association said: "It is great to be able to honour these people, but to also explain to people how they've been honoured. The plaque looks great, and a canopy over it has been made by the British Ironwork Centre. It is nice that people who didn't know what it means now know what the trees stand for."

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Warning is issued over bogus workmen

POLICE are warning householders in Oswestry to be on their guard after two scam callers in the town.

On Monday last week a man called at a house in Monkmoor Court off Jubilee Road claiming to be from Telford and Wrekin Council doing a housing survey.

Officers said he took photos outside and inside the property and asked if he could check the door key code. This was refused and the resident contacted Telford & Wrekin Council who replied that no survey was taking place and the police were contacted.

The male was described as white, 30ish, with a plump face, dark hair, black rimmed glasses and a brief case and ladder.

On July 18 a bogus gardener demanded payment from a resident in Meadow Close, Oswestry. The male is described as white, around 5' 4" tall, with short brown hair, aged in his late teens, wearing a yellow short sleeved T shirt and jeans. Police said the man walked into the property uninvited via a front door that had been left open. When the man was challenged by a neighbour as to what he was doing has left the scene in a white van with a ladder on the top.

A police spokesman said: "Most callers are genuine, but some aren't. Burglars won't go to the trouble of breaking in if they can just knock and be invited in."

Nature reserve to host fun day

A FUN day is being held at a nature reserve near Oswestry.

It is being run by the Friends of Ifton Meadows at the meadows in Pentre in St Martins on August 19 between noon and 4pm. There will be a scarecrow competition, and entertainment comes from The Silverman and a Storyteller, with music by Fizz Gigs and The Gracechurch.

Colleges hopeful of a merger in October

Report by Jonny Drury

A MERGER between a large Shropshire college and one of its counterparts is set to be completed in October.

North Shropshire College, based in Oswestry, and Herefordshire and Ludlow College are deep into talks about merging, to pool resources and make both establishments stronger.

The decision to merge came earlier this year and a steering group is now ironing out the final details.

A funding bid has been made and the colleges are waiting on the outcome.

Chair of governors Gillian Richards said plans are going well and the merger will not just secure the college's future but strengthen it.

She said: "The talks have been going really well and we have a steering group that meets to discuss how things are going."

Hoping

"We are hoping we can complete the merger for October 1.

"Now we have made a bid to the government regarding the funding and we are waiting to see that.

"This merger is the best way forward, and won't just preserve what we have to offer in Walford and Oswestry, but it will strengthen them."

The college had been in the advanced stages of a merger with Reaseheath College, however they fell through last year at the 11th hour.

A consultation is also taking place on the closure of three of the college's campuses in Wem, Shipley and Tenbury Wells.

The chair of governors insisted that the closures of the campuses will be for the greater good of Walford and Oswestry, and students will be able to study the same as before. She also said bosses would need to sit down and discuss structure, but would not be drawn on any potential job losses. She said: "I can't say if jobs will be affected, however I am sure the management team will discuss any changes when the colleges merge."

Spotlight to go on different cultures



Dancers from different cultures have been lined up to perform in Oswestry

A FESTIVAL celebrating different cultures is set to take place for a second time.

The Oswestry Cultural Diversity Festival will include music, dance and food from various different cultures.

It will take place on August 18 from 10am to 3pm and will run alongside the Shropshire Produce Market, and the activities will take place on the Bailey Head and down Bailey Street.

There will be free music and dance performances from different cultures including Syrian beat boxing and other pop-up performances of music, poetry and readings.

Other attractions will include tastings of food from different cultures, and interactive arts workshops on Bailey Head.

There will also be a host of information stalls run by local groups and organisations celebrating Oswestry's diverse communities.

The event is being organised by Arts Connection - Cyswllt Celf, Shropshire Council's Community Enablement team, Oswestry Town Council, the Jools Payne Partnership and Oswestry Welcomes Refugees.

Oswestry's border town heritage and strong Welsh influence will be highlighted throughout the day with performances of Welsh and English poetry and readings on the Bailey Head.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New politician is appointed

PLAID Cymru has appointed a new Assembly Member to replace Simon Thomas who stood down following his arrest for the alleged possession of indecent images.

Last month, Mr Thomas, AM for Mid and West Wales, who is a married father-of-two, was arrested by Dyfed-Powys Police, who are investigating allegations against him. He has now been replaced by former Montgomeryshire parliamentary candidate Helen Mary Jones. She was sworn into her role on Thursday last week. She has been a prominent figure in Welsh politics, and served as a Plaid Cymru AM from 1999 until 2011.

House burglaries could be linked

POLICE think three burglaries could be linked.

The break-ins happened at Hanwood, Hampton Bank near Welshampton and Hawthorn Grove in Oswestry during the day on July 30.

Police are appealing for information about the suspects. They think the burglaries could be linked to five white men, wearing dark clothing who were seen in a dark Audi with silver wing mirrors in Priorslee, Telford. Officers have revealed that the men who were disturbed by the householders in Hawthorn Grove, were wearing balaclavas and skull masks. They escaped by climbing over a garden fence and running past neighbours' windows before scrambling over a flat roof.

Crews called to four-vehicle crash

A ROAD near Oswestry was blocked by a crash involving four vehicles, emergency services said.

Emergency services were called to the scene on the A4396 at Llanyblodwel at around 10.10pm on Thursday last week.

One fire crew was sent from Oswestry.

However, no-one was trapped inside and the vehicles were made safe.

Crews left the scene at around 11pm.

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Future Fit - key decisions

Public have say on Future Fit options

NEARLY half the people responding to the Future Fit consultation said Royal Shrewsbury Hospital should be the site of the county's sole emergency centre.

The figures have been released as part of the information gathered at the halfway stage of the Future Fit

consultation. The information has revealed that 49 per cent of people who have responded so far have agreed or strongly agreed that Royal Shrewsbury Hospital should be the base for the county's emergency centre, with planned care being handed at Telford's Princess Royal

Hospital. Out of those responding, 32 per cent agreed with the alternative option which would see PRH becoming the county's emergency centre and RSH the site of planned care. Documents show that 797 people have backed RSH as the site for the emergency centre, while 513

have said they would prefer Telford to be the location. The consultation has also quizzed people on whether they disagree with either option. So far, a total of 47 per cent of people, some 770, disagree or strongly disagree with idea of the RSH hosting the emergency centre.

Hospital has contacted all data breach patients

Report by Jonny Drury

A HOSPITAL which breached data rules by releasing patient data without permission has now contacted all those affected.

In May it was revealed Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital released patients' data, with some information given to a medical components manufacturer.

It was also revealed that the information included some patients' surnames and initials, hospital numbers, and clinical information - including clinical measurements. Now chief executive Mark Brandreth has insisted everyone has been contacted and he has again

apologised.

He said at a trust board meeting: "All patients affected have been written to and again I sincerely apologise.

"The Information Commissioner has been contacted and information has been passed to the CCG and we await the outcome of their decision.

"There is an action plan in place and I am pleased to say the work in the action plan is well under way."

New pitches set to be provided

NEW sports pitches will be provided to replace land being used to build a new primary school in a Mid Wales town.

Work began recently on a new 360-pupil English medium primary school in Welshpool.

The school is being built on land on Salop Field, which previously was home to a host of different sized football pitches.

Welshpool High School sides, as well as the town's junior football club, also played there.

Now Powys County Council has made a commitment to ensure that children in the town do not miss out, and will develop new facilities. The Maesydre fields, home to Welshpool Town FC, are run by the town council, and now the local authority has consulted with groups and clubs about where to house new facilities.

The hospital trust has been investigating since discovering in late April that some data of up to 2,500 patients taking part in a long-standing surveillance study may have been shared without their consent.

It reported the matter to the Information Commissioner when it became aware.

An internal investigation found that some information collected as part of usual treatment was shared with the medical component manufacturer as part of a surveillance study. The study, which began in 2006, was set up to monitor the outcomes for patients of procedures using the components. The investigation found that not all patients were aware their data was being used in the study.

Time to have a great show



Furrows and Newgate Clocks are exhibitors and have got together with a Mustang and massive clock to illustrate the garden theme of Times Gone By

A RENOWNED clock company and a business celebrating 100 years are joining in with the rather apt theme for this year's Shrewsbury Flower Show.

Exhibits in the Quarry Marquee at the event on Saturday and Sunday will all be based around the theme "Times Gone By" which inspired both Newgate and Furrows to get involved. The Newgate brand, based in Oswestry and founded by husband and wife team Jim and Chloe Read nearly

30 years ago, designs and manufactures clocks for the homeware industry as well as having an online shop and a newly-launched watch collection.

As well as creating a themed display, they will also be offering their British-designed clocks and watches at exclusive prices.

Furrows managing director Dave Farthing added their display was a celebration of their centenary year and the business's pride in Shropshire.

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Report reveals council was aware of service failings

Report by Jonny Drury

A REPORT has revealed Powys County Council knew about failings in its children's service more than a year before an inspectorate said children had been put at serious risk of harm.

A 'People Too' report had been completed just over a year before the damning Care Inspectorate Wales report that was published in October 2017.

Within the report it had shown warning signs that children were at risk, and the service was inadequate and required vast improvement.

Nine jobs to go when store closes

A SUPERMARKET in Welshpool is set to close with the loss of nine jobs.

Iceland supermarket has been open for many years in Puzzle Square, however bosses have announced it is set to close in September.

The news comes after Aldi opened in the town, with Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's also having stores.

Keith Hann, Iceland spokesman said: "I can confirm that the Iceland store in Welshpool will close on September 15, owing to the expiry of our lease.

"We are currently in consultations with our nine colleagues at the store.

"We are grateful to our customers in Welshpool for their support."

The premises, which takes up units two, three and four in Puzzle Square, are now being marketed by Morris, Marshall and Poole with Norman Lloyd in an attempt to secure a new tenant for it.

The leasehold property was originally built in 1986 as part of a wider retail development in the Puzzle Square area.

David Jones, a partner at MMP/NL, said: "The sale offers a rare opportunity to lease one of the town's main commercial retail premises. It's in a key retail area of the town centre."

Councillors have called for the report to be published, but those calls have been ignored by the authority. However after a Freedom of Information request the report has now been made public.

Leader, Councillor Rosemarie Harris has confirmed an independent internal investigation is under way to understand what actions were taken after this report.

People Too was commissioned by Powys County Council to carry out a review of children's services in a bid to strengthen the service.

Inadequate

The report, completed and given to the council in July 2016 threw up a host of findings, one showing that work in over 50 per cent of cases was inadequate.

The people who carried out the report said a "concerning picture" had been drawn from the service, and a lack of management oversight was directly linked with a diminishing quality of practice, and poor oversight for children.

On top of this, the council were aiming to save £2.7 million from the service budget between 2016 and 2019.

Now it could be spending almost £10 million to turn the situation around.

Cllr Harris said: "Our highest priority is the safety and well-being of children in our care and we are satisfied that the children highlighted in the report are safe or no longer require support from the council.

"We are holding an independent internal investigation into issues around the report to understand what happened to it, the extent of actions taken and learn important lessons for the future.

"We anticipate that the work will be concluded by the end of September."

Big clean-up after factory fire



The fire at the Kronospan factory in Chirk near Oswestry last week

A MAJOR clean-up operation took place after a blaze broke out at one of the region's largest factories.

The fire broke out at Kronospan in Chirk just before 10pm on Tuesday last week on the site on Holyhead Road. No-one was hurt in the blaze.

About 30 firefighters from across the region including Oswestry went to the scene along with the police and ambulance service.

The fire is believed to have been confined to one of the SEKA filter towers at the factory, which makes medium-density fibreboard. No-one was evacuated from the plant, which employs 600 people.

Spokeswoman Candida Pryce-Jones, said: "We can confirm that there was a fire affecting the SEKA filter at Kronospan Chirk. North Wales Fire Service was called shortly before 10pm and attended the site to support our own efforts in extinguishing the fire.

"The incident was quickly brought under control and by 1am all fire crews had been stood down and left site.

"A detailed investigation is currently under way involving the fire service and our own specialists to determine the exact cause of the fire.

"However, the first indications are that the cause was an electrical fault."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Sad news for Oswestry film buffs this week with the announcement that ambitious plans for a 112-seater cinema in the town centre have finally been scrapped – but were they just pipe dreams anyway?

Eyebrows had been raised when planning permission was granted to the former proprietor of the town's Regent Cinema for a new screen in King Street.

And hopes were high that big film nights were on their way back to the market town.

Now it seems a lack of funds mean there will be no big premiere nights in Oswestry after both the town council and county council turned down requests for cash support.

And very few council tax payers would argue against those decisions.

Cineworld recently backed out of a scheme to build a multi-screen complex as part of the much-postponed Smithfield re-development.

And you would have to say if a big organisation like that can't make things pay there was surely no hope at all for a small private development.

Strapped

And with local authorities more than a little strapped for disposable cash at the moment there was never a slim chance that either town or county council would find a few thousand notes tucked away in a cupboard somewhere.

Independent cinemas are under immense pressure across the country, can't risk any hike in ticket price and simply don't get their fair share of the spoils which drop into the coffers of the big boys with multi-screens and all the add-on benefits that make a night at the cinema a real experience.

And things will get a lot worse with an escalation of 'premium video on demand' streaming service which will allow us to watch new movies from the comfort of our very own sofa without having to wait for the window to open between cinematic and general release.

It's on the way. The days of cinema clubs and queues of expectant viewers stretching down streets are romantic memories of days gone by. They will not be seen again and certainly won't be seen in Oswestry.

In the meantime it looks like film fans in the Oswestry area will continue to face long treks to Shrewsbury or Wrexham to catch all the latest releases for the foreseeable future though.



Peter Booth, right, with his then-boss Tom Gittins in 1985



Peter Booth with Halls chairman Allen Gittins



The letter inviting Peter to his second interview in 1978

Peter's half-century of auction adventure

Trips to the races and flash cars were all in a day's work during the 1960s.
Report by MARK ANDREWS

THERE is an old saying that if you can remember the swinging 60s, you obviously weren't there.

Peter Booth is living proof of the fallacy in that statement.

This month, Peter marks half a century with Shrewsbury-based auction house Halls, having joined the day before his 17th birthday on July 15, 1968. And he remembers the 60s all right. As we sit in the glorious sunshine outside the cafe at Halls' headquarters in Battlefield, he recounts in great detail a never-ending catalogue of raffish-escapades and hedonistic adventures.

Days at the races, flash cars and boozy nights out with farmers were all par for the course, leaving his friends green with envy as he enjoyed a coming-of-age they could only dream of.

And while the winkle-pickers may have made way for platforms as the teenager became a twenty-something, the fun did not end there. He did by this time, have an extra mouth to feed, though – a racing greyhound called Snoozy.

"It was like one big family in those days," says Peter wistfully. "I've never made much in the way of money, but I've always had fun and enjoyed what I do."

"It's very different now, and in a lot of ways that's a good thing, everything's much more professional, you have targets to meet. But I still enjoy it."

The adventures started in the summer of 1968, when the teenager joined what



Peter Booth is now saleroom manager with the Halls fine art department

was then known as Hall, Wateridge and Owen as an office junior.

Despite attending the prestigious Priory Boys Grammar School – "In those days, it was the next step down from the Shrewsbury School" – Peter says he was never academically minded, and the thought of college or university never crossed his mind.

What he did have was a talent for mental arithmetic and, crucially, a driving licence.

He remembers: "Quite often the owner Tom Gittins would say to me 'what are you doing tomorrow, kid?' – he always used to call me 'kid' – and he would say 'pick me up at 8.30. I would like you to drive me to Cheltenham races, or Haydock."

"He was a wonderful man, I also used

to take him racing over in Ireland, and wherever he went, I went."

And the chauffeuring duties came with an added bonus.

"Our accountant was an old lady called Mrs Wall, she had the personality of the Queen Mother," he recalls.

"I had to go to the station to pick her up, make her a cup of tea, and take her back to the station at 4pm. At the auction house we had a Ford Anglia, but she wouldn't go in that, so I would have to take Mr Gittins's Mercedes, or Derek Pugh's BMW. So I used to take her to the station and then drive around town hoping a few of my friends might see me."

Derek Pugh, by the way, was a former greyhound trainer who was Mr Gittins's business partner. He also

owned the Dudley Wood speedway and greyhound track, and it was this friendship that would lead to his adventures with Snoozy.

"Derek had an absolute passion for greyhound racing," he says.

"We started doing greyhound sales in Hackney, and I used to go down with Derek."

Peter quickly became hooked, and perhaps it was inevitable he would end up with a greyhound of his own.

"I ended up buying a couple of greyhounds. The one, I paid £60 for her, and she made me a fortune."

"One of the trainers offered me £1,000, but I turned it down. Immediately after that she broke her toe, and was never the same again."

In 1978, Peter and auctioneer Keith Embrey reopened the livestock market at Bishop's Castle after a three-year absence. Re-establishing the market, which had been closed down under previous management due to hygiene regulations, was no mean feat, and Peter's well-honed people skills were put to good use.

It led to a pretty heady social life for the two young men, with a lot of late nights at nearby pubs as they entertained the farmers and customers after the sales.

"They were special times, we were doing auctions in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Bishop's Castle Monday to Friday, and we made a lot of friends."

Sadly, the foot-and-mouth crisis of 2001 had a devastating effect on the livestock market, and that year Peter moved to the company's fine art department, and the beginning of another chapter in his career.

And Peter, who has lived in Pontesbury all his life, says he still enjoys his present role as the saleroom manager, and has no plans to retire any time soon.

WORKING FOR YOU



I write this column from Bogotá, capital city of Colombia in South America. It's a country not as well known within the UK as its size and importance warrants.

Its population is 50 million, and it is bigger than France and Germany combined. Bogotá itself has the same population as Greater London. It's a developing city, built on a high plateau, surrounded by the mighty Andes mountain range.

I have two reasons to be in South America for three weeks. Firstly, I have a family interest in that two of our grandchildren are half-Welsh half-Colombian. Although, they live in Berriew, they will always have close family ties with Boyaca, a region of Colombia north of Bogotá. Family links are strong in Latin America.

And secondly, as the UK leaves the EU, every politician has some responsibility to use their own capacities to help develop diplomatic and trade links with the nations of the world.

Colombia, like all of Latin America has a violent history, particularly as independent was being won by force from Spanish imperialists.

It's been a historically important week to be in Bogotá. On Tuesday, President Elect, Duque will be inaugurated, following a closely fought election, when three men were involved in a bitterly fought contest. Duque is a modern type politician – charming, engaging, can sing and play football, but of little political experience. So he is an unknown quantity, facing two huge challenges.

Firstly he has to reinforce the 'peace process' which ended a 50 year terrorist campaign by the FARC, following an election campaign which has led to concerns about his commitment to it.

And he has to take on the drug cartels, and the wanton murder of human rights defenders who challenge the cartel's activities. President Duque will have no choice but take a stronger role in challenging these 'sons of Escobar' if he is to be a success. And then on Monday, there was a 'supposed' assassination attempt on the life of President Maduro next door in Venezuela, whose history is so intertwined with Colombia.

Over the last few days I've met with politicians of the 'left' and 'right', the British Embassy and the important Bogotá Chamber of Commerce. Colombia is a truly amazing country. I believe the UK can help it achieve its potential.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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Moves to boost GP numbers failing

WANT a GP appointment? The UK GP crisis is growing under the Conservative Government.

Former health secretary Jeremy Hunt has admitted the government is struggling to meet its pledge to increase the number of GPs in England by 5,000 by 2020. There are two schemes aimed at increasing GP numbers and both are failing. The international GP recruitment scheme has attracted just 58 doctors in more than two years since

the GP Forward View promised to bring in more primary care doctors from outside the UK, none of whom can work until at least September. This figure represents just three per cent of the total 2,000 GPs that NHS England has pledged to recruit from outside the UK by 2020 and NHS England are unable to say how many of the 58 GPs currently in the international scheme would be starting work in September.

The second scheme is the GP retention

scheme, asking GPs to remain in the workforce is a major part of the government's plan to deliver an extra 5,000 GPs by 2020/21. But statistics from NHS Digital show that around 5,159 GPs left the profession in 2016/17. This is equivalent to around 430 a month whilst the GP retention scheme was supporting just 286 GPs in March this year.

**MS JANET COBB
Edgton**

These stupid mistakes by leaders keep on mounting up

EVER since the Tories first came to power there have been mistakes beyond numbering.

We are confronted with Theresa May's policy regarding Windrush, for which the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd was forced to resign.

Now we are told regarding women's breast screening that many who should have had further screening did not.

We are also told that the government will not only be paying compensation for the abysmally treated Windrush sufferers, they will also be compensating families of women who have died as a result of not being recalled for their due screening.

Well, isn't it a good job that the Labour Party didn't make these mistakes?

Because I am absolutely certain Theresa May and her overpaid Tory cabinet would be asking where the money was coming from.

Add to this the £30 million she wasted on that unwanted general election, and the way May stalled when the Brexit vote was clearly and democratically "out".

We were much better off before Edward Heath signed us up to what was then the Common Market, now the European Community.

President de Gaulle said no to us on more than one occasion.

Perhaps if we had taken his original no as a final word we wouldn't be in the horrific mess we are in now regarding Brexit/Remain MPs, who were told clearly enough by the electorate what the majority of the British people wanted.

**MARTIN EDDIES
Shrewsbury**

High praise for hospital

I RECENTLY had an unexpected stay in the Princess Royal Hospital and wanted to say that we should be proud of the healthcare team in our area and not always criticise them.

From the first interactions with the ambulance service and the A&E team to the after care being provided by the stroke early supported discharge team, I have been treated with care and respect and in an extremely professional way.

Of particular mention are the team on Ward 15, they were all amazing. Without exception the staff were kind, cheerful and provided high levels of care. Having a stroke was obviously a shock to me, but the staff all helped me to understand what was happening and to progress my recovery.

While I clearly hope not to need the services again, I cannot speak highly enough of the way I was cared for.

**MARGARET WHITEHEAD
Wellington**

Firefighters gave a demonstration at open day



Oswestry firefighters performed several demonstrations for the public during the fire station's open day on September 2, 1978. One of the highlights was this simulated accident involving 'injured' people in a car.

This book gives health to body, mind and soul

THERE'S an old saying: you reap what you sow. Well, I sowed carrots in a raised bed and guess what came up? A wonderful variety of weeds but no sign of carrots. So it's not always the case, in the garden at least.

In life our minds are like a garden: what ideas and thoughts are we planting? Parents and teachers have a very important role to play because they are sowing seeds in the minds of children and young people which will affect the person they become.

Farmers and gardeners are well aware that you don't have to sow weeds, they come uninvited. Nettles, thistles, docks, a whole host of pernicious weeds just appear and need dealing with before they take over.

Our minds are like fertile soil, we need to take care what we let take root.

I recommend a book that will give health to body, mind and soul, if we read learn and inwardly digest it.

It's stood the test of time and it's called the Bible.

**RON JONES
St Martins**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Right to protest must be protected

I AM not and never have been a member of the EDL. However I am passionate about freedom of speech and the right to protest. Indeed I have marched, with thousands of other people, through London for a cause close to my heart.

To those who advocate banning a march, I say remember this country is famous for its tolerance and respect for freedoms. For at least a hundred years, or even longer, to today people have come to this country for sanctuary.

**L JACK
Wrockwardine**

Please be careful over disposal of hazardous items

PLEASE be vigilant over the disposal of hazardous items including medicines and batteries.

One recent morning something suspiciously like a tablet was consumed by my eager spaniel. Beside it in the gutter lay an empty Nurofen Plus blister pack.

Highly toxic to animals, it necessitated costly and unpleasant urgent vet treatment for my pet.

Previously contained in childproof tubs, many medicines are nowadays sold in recyclable plastic packs with foil backing.

We are encouraged to recycle but often items spill from or blow out of the kerbside tubs.

Old batteries left on the pavement in bags for recycling are another hazard, especially to infants and pets.

Should our Shrewsbury recycling tubs be replaced with high level wheelie bins with lids like those that are used in Telford and Wrekin?

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Figures reveal NHS death rates

MORE Shropshire hospital patients died than were forecast last year, according to new figures.

The death rate at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust (SATH) was 2.9 per cent higher than the forecast, with 79 more patients dying last year than had been forecast.

However, the figure falls within the official expected rating for NHS trusts, which allows a margin of error for the estimates.

However, the picture appears to be far more serious at the neighbouring Wye Valley trust, where the death rate was nearly 17 per cent higher than expected.

Wye Valley, which runs the Hereford County and Leominster Community hospitals, was one of the 13 worst performing trusts in the country.

Mountain blaze flares up again

A MOUNTAIN wildfire which has been burning for more than two weeks flared up again this week.

Flames from the blaze on Llantysilio Mountain, near Llangollen, reignited and spread close to the main Horseshoe Pass road. The road had to be temporarily closed to traffic.

Crews from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service have been at the scene of the fire since it first broke out last month and firefighters were working to control the latest flare-up.

The fire spread for a while on Saturday and was later brought under control.

The fire service said four crews were dealing with hotspots and fires around the Berwyn quarry area.

People were urged to stay away from the area and crews were said to be working in difficult circumstances to try to contain the spread of the fire.

Family and friends in Severn row for Jenna

Report by Jordan Reynolds

FAMILY and friends of a woman who died following complications after a heart transplant have completed a sponsored row down the River Severn to raise funds for the hospital that treated her.

Jenna Byrne died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on May 16, just a month after celebrating her 21st birthday and getting engaged.

The beautician from Bicton, Shrewsbury, had an underlying heart condition which was only discovered later in life and required a heart transplant. A group of about 40 people rowed down the River Severn from Royal Hill in Edgerley, Oswestry, to Wingfield Arms in Montford Bridge, to raise funds for the critical care unit D where Jenna was treated. A new charity is now being set up in Jenna's memory called The Jenna Byrne Jar of Hearts Foundation.

Jenna's brother Alex Byrne, 26, said he wants to raise awareness of the work the unit does so that more people will donate to it. The supervisor for SHB Vehicle Hire said: "Jenna had a heart transplant in May as she had a heart condition we believe from birth that we only knew about in the last few years."

"A week after her 21st birthday and getting engaged she went into hospital and the transplant went well but she developed sepsis when they tried to take her off the machinery. The nurses and the staff were brilliant and that's why we want to raise money for the



Friends and family of Jenna Byrne took on a river row, starting at Edgerley near Oswestry

specific unit." Alex said Jenna had "an infectious smile". "Jenna was the best, she was one of a kind," he added.

"She had an infectious smile and

everyone used to look out for her. We want to raise as much as we can by doing a number of events, it would be great if our first target could be raising £10,000. That would be a sum

that we could be really proud of and we could present it to the unit then.

For more information search for The Jenna Byrne Jar of Hearts Foundation on Facebook.

Appeal is launched for special play equipment

SWINGS for children in wheelchairs could be on their way to the town of Chirk.

The town council has launched a fundraising campaign to pay for two of the special swings.

It is hoped the special swings can be installed at the town council's Chapel Lane playground.

Councillor Terry Ellis put forward the idea to allow all children to enjoy the park.

He has asked the community to come forward and help funding the special equipment.

"I feel very strongly that we need these in Chirk so that all children no matter their disability can enjoy the freedom of swinging through the air," he said.

"As a community let's try and raise enough money and get these new swings bought and installed."

Councillor Gareth Baines has launched a Go Fund Me internet site, gofundme.com/wheelchair-swings-for-disabled-kids.

He said: "On behalf of Chirk Town Council, we'd love to be able to offer disabled children in the community the ability to join in on the playground with the provision of wheelchair platforms, basically a swing that can be used by wheelchair users."

"Each platform costs over £840, not including the costs of erection and installation, and we'd like to be able to provide two so we have an inclusive playground for all children."

"Please give anything you can do we can ensure no child is left behind, all amounts small or large will help."

Donations for the specialist equipment can also be dropped in at the Chirk Town Council offices on Holyhead Road.

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Iconic sites brought to life under new project

THE Chirk birthplace of Wales's greatest footballer, a great Welsh victory over the invading English in the Ceiriog Valley and the Llangollen railway are among North East Wales's most iconic locations being brought to life in a world first project.

A network of Digital Trails accessible to mobile phones and tablets has been set up across the rural areas of the three counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham and in Flintshire they link Point of Ayr, Holywell, Brynford and Mold.

The project is the brainchild of rural regeneration agency Cadwyn Clwyd and at present there are 12 Digital Trails, all accessed through one mobile phone/tablet app which spring into life when the phone/tablet is within range, providing information, pictures, audio and even video.

That number will quickly grow to 18, six in each county, with the capability for more in future as the scheme is expanded and more local organisations, businesses and communities get involved.

The North East Wales Digital Trails app network have been set up at a cost of £45,000 through Corwen-based Cadwyn Clwyd, which has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme.

The trails feature Chirk, birthplace of footballer Billy Meredith, who helped both Manchester clubs to FA Cup triumphs, the Ceiriog Valley where English king Henry II was given a bloody nose at Pontricket Bridge and Llangollen Railway. Flintshire's Trail features Holywell, Point of Ayr, Brynford and Mold while Denbighshire's feature Corwen, St Asaph and Rhuddlan.

Green Flag delight for picturesque waterway

Report by Jonny Drury

THE Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust has welcomed the Green Flag Award for the Montgomery Canal.

The chairman of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, Michael Limbrey, said: "The Montgomery Canal is a special waterway with a notable natural and built heritage and we see this award is a recognition of the value of the canal and the contribution of the volunteers who have done so much over many years to bring the canal back to life and who today commit so much to its future."

"The canal is a tranquil byway branching off the busy canal route to Llangollen and is special because of all it offers the visitor both on the restored sections and where it still has to be reopened."

"The towpath is open throughout to Newtown and the sections that are already navigable are used by no less than three different trip boats with weekend trips at Welshpool on the boats of the Heulwen Trust, which mainly provides boat trips for less able adults or children, Sunday trips across the border at Llanymynech, and at Maesbury where the horse-drawn boat is one of only handful across the country. Canoes can be hired at Maesbury too."

The Montgomery Canal gained a Green Flag Award in recognition of its outstanding rural beauty, diverse wildlife and the enthusiastic commitment of volunteers.

The picturesque canal is cared for by waterways and wellbeing charity Canal & River Trust.



Supporters of the Montgomery Canal celebrate the Green Flag success

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spreading word about weekend

ORGANISERS of a 1940s weekend will be out and about at shows this summer promoting the event.

The Welshpool 1940s weekend has become a regular event and will run from September 28 to 30.

Organisers are now attending a host of events to spread the word.

They say this year's event promises to be even bigger and better with more attractions and events, with something to cater for most members of the family. There is currently space available for vintage and military traders, craft stalls, as well as for people wishing to exhibit relevant models or displays about family members who served during the war either in the armed forces, land girls or home guard. This year will also see special features marking the 100th anniversary of the RAF and also 100 years since the end of the First World War.

For more information visit welshpool1940sweekend.co.uk or search for Welshpool Forties Weekend on Facebook.

Spiritual group to meet again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre have their fortnightly meeting this evening (Thursday).

It will take place in the Cambrian Room, Memorial Hall, Oswestry from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm.

The cost is £3.50.

Val Laundry from the group said: "We welcome Pauline Hedges as our guest medium. Tonight is a bit different, if you are thinking of coming please bring a flower with you that you have picked yourself from your garden or the hedgerow or have a particular artificial flower you possess that means something to you. These will be placed on a tray for the medium to choose and give readings from."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fundraiser set to be staged

FOR the final time this summer, No1 Church Bank, Welshpool opens its doors and garden to the general public on Saturday and Sunday from midday until 5pm.

Having already done a number of private viewings to different groups plus two weekends as part of the National Garden Scheme this weekend's opening is the owners' annual fundraiser for the Lingen Davies Appeal.

Admission is £5 which includes tea and cakes.

Meanwhile, a coffee morning and table top sale will be held at the Corn Exchange in Welshpool on Saturday between 9am and midday.

Online blackmail warning given

POLICE are warning people to be on guard against online blackmailers.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it has three pieces of advice: Don't panic. Don't communicate. Don't pay.

The force said people have been faced with demands to pay up to £1,900 or the threat that intimate photos and videos will be shared.

Dyfed-Powys Police has offered the guidance after recording four reports of online blackmail over the past month.

Detective Chief Inspector Estelle Hopkin Davies said: "One victim reported that the blackmail fee was £1,500, which thankfully they did not pay. In two other cases that have been reported over the past month, the victim has been watching pornography online, and received an email containing threats shortly after."

Tough decisions lying ahead, warns leader

Report by Jonny Drury

TOUGH decisions will need to be made on a council's budget with its financial picture looking gloomy, according to its leader.

Work on next year's Powys County Council budget started as soon as the council set this year's council tax in March.

Now leader Councillor Rosemarie Harris said work will intensify as the bigger financial picture facing the council is a gloomy one.

The council traditionally received the lowest settlement from the Welsh Government every year and she said there are likely to be some tough decisions as a result.

She said: "We already know that the financial picture facing Powys is gloomy and it is likely that there will be some difficult decisions ahead."

"Having a financial model operating over three financial years gives us a degree of stability and provides an opportunity to plan service changes carefully and implement them in a controlled way."

"The council simply cannot afford to operate as it has in the past and the changes we have to introduce will demand careful discussion."

"A key element of that work will be our drive to build a stronger economy for the county, it is far better for council services and the economy to generate new income rather than reduce spending."

A new show experience for Tracy



Tracy Jones is chairman of this year's Llanfyllin Show

SATURDAY'S Llanfyllin Show will be a new experience for Tracy Jones – because she is chairman, it will be the first time in 42 years that she has not competed at the event.

"I have been competing at Llanfyllin Show since I was three and it's going to be a big shock not competing this year," said Tracy, who breeds Welsh part-bred horses at the successful Borderfields Stud in Llansantffraid. Having served on the show committee for a decade and been the horse section secretary for five years, this year she steps up to become chairman.

Like many other local shows in Wales, there is a strong family tradition in Llanfyllin of serving the community by taking up committee posts. Tracy continues that tradition by following in the footsteps of her father, John, who was chairman three years ago.

Known as the "friendly show" because of the warm welcome extended to visitors, Llanfyllin's annual showcase is being held at Bodfach Park by permission of the Bodfach Trust and Janet Jones.

Carnival's procession 'could be scrapped'

A PROCESSION at Welshpool's annual carnival could be scrapped next year due to a lack of floats.

The carnival is one of the highlights in the town's calendar and took place on Sunday. However a lack of floats involved in the procession around the town was the talking point again.

Only a small number of lorries took part and Mayor Stephen Kaye said the council may have to look at scrapping it next year. He said: "It was a great day, but again the procession was low and only had a few floats taking part. Speaking to people around the town it seems that the problem is the insurance."

"For people to be up on the lorries and taking part the insurance is quite high so that is one reason for there being a lack of floats."

There was one change from last year, as it moved to earlier in August from its usual bank holiday spot.

However that didn't cause problems with crowd numbers as well over 1,000 people took to the carnival field to enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment in the sun.

There was a whole host of attractions, including Titan the Robot and Animal Man.

There were games all day and Cllr Kaye said on that side of things the day was a real success. He said: "The field was fantastic, and I would say there must have been well over 1,000 people there. The weather was great and there were some great attractions."

"As usual all the kids come out and they really enjoy it."



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12 Firm celebrates after picking up two awards

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 9, 2018

AN Oswestry firm is celebrating winning two prestigious awards.

Aico Ltd, a market leader in domestic smoke and CO alarms, was named the best training provider at The Electrical Wholesaler Awards.

The Electrical Wholesaler Awards is an awards ceremony that can only be voted for by electrical wholesalers. It is split into two categories, one for wholesaler awards and one for manufacturer/supplier awards. Aico Ltd recently won the award within the manufacturer/supplier category. The award entry was based around Aico's Expert Installer training scheme, designed to ensure everyone involved in domestic alarm specification and installation has all the information they need for a successful fire alarm installation.

The second award was picked up at the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) Awards, where Aico Ltd was the proud winner of Best Manufacturer Supply Chain Initiative Award; on this occasion the nominations were split into awards for ECA members and suppliers. The award entries are judged by leading industry experts. Aico Ltd was a winner within the supplier category.

Aico Ltd has trained over 17,500 customers to date, from all over the UK, free of charge.

Response to be given to critical report

COUNCIL bosses are preparing a response to a critical scrutiny report about finances earmarked for its children's services.

At Powys County Council cabinet, a report from the panel meeting in June was discussed, which made a number of observations and concerns over the finances of the children's service, which is trying to improve following a bad report last year.

The report stated: "There is extreme concern that from the figures given in the portfolio holder's briefing report, it would appear that a further substantial increase in budget will be required in the region of £3.2 million in addition to the £6.1 million already allocated.

"The panel will need early assurance that this overspend situation is addressed as there is significant concern regarding the impact upon, and risk to, the council's budget from 2019/20 and beyond. The panel note that unachieved savings of £1.1 million for 2017/18 and £1.2 million in 18/19 are unlikely to be achieved in the current year. We have been informed in that these savings will be 'refreshed' but we have little evidence to understand what 'refresh' might mean. There needs to be clarity in this regard at an early stage." At the meeting on Tuesday last week, councillors noted the report, but it wasn't discussed. The portfolio holders for finance and children's services said they were pleased with the corporate support of the council and scrutiny, and would be shortly preparing a response to the report.

Police take action on illegal raves

POLICE in Mid Wales have been putting on extra patrols to crack down on illegal raves.

Dyfed-Powys Police are working with Gwent and South Wales Police forces to prevent and disrupt illegal gatherings.

Sergeant Owen Dillon said: "These kinds of events can cause considerable anxiety to the community, and if they are not dealt with quickly, they are difficult to stop due to the number of people involved."

Farmers and landowners are asked to be alert for warning signs of any illegal gatherings planned for their land.

Sgt Dillon added: "There is little doubt that these type of events are very well planned, organised and that local knowledge is important in drawing down the main group to a particular field, or area of land which has been targeted previously as a suitable venue.

"Farmers, landowners and local communities are encouraged to report any suspicious activity immediately to the police; this may be an unusual numbers of vehicles, especially camper vans, vans or trucks in the locality."

£80K football club cash: 'a cock-up, not a conspiracy' insists unitary authority's leader

Report by Mark Andrews

THE leader of Shropshire Council has spoken out on the growing row about an £80,000 grant to a football club, saying it was a "cock-up, not a conspiracy".

Councillor Peter Nutting also said the episode, which left council taxpayers £70,000 out of pocket, could never happen again after procedures had been tightened.

The furore surrounds an £80,000 grant to The New Saints of Oswestry Town FC, commonly known as TNS, towards the cost of building a new stand at its Park Hall stadium.

The council says the grant was given on condition that the club repaid the money in the form of grants over a five-year period.

But only one payment, for £10,000 was made. Councillor Nutting, who was not leader of

the council at the time of the grant, said council officers had assured him they had the evidence to recover the money.

He admitted that the way the council had handled the matter was unsatisfactory.

He said thorough investigations had been carried out by the authority and by police, but they found no evidence of fraud by any councillor, former councillor, or council officer.

"It appears the council lacked the systems within its organisation to follow up non-repayments," said Councillor Nutting.

"Systems are now being implemented to ensure a similar situation will happen again."

He said the council had taken appropriate legal action to recover the money from TNS.

He said: "Officers assure me that they have the evidence they require to recover the money, and I'm asking them to undertake due diligence to ensure they don't end up paying large legal fees in this matter.

"This is very much a cock-up rather than a conspiracy."

The Shropshire Star revealed the full details of the council's own internal investigation, which revealed that the council missed at least eight opportunities to repay the money.

It revealed that crucial documents relating to the payments were inadvertently wiped by IT staff, and it was not known whether the failure to pursue payment was by design or accident.

It also revealed that the council did not seek evidence that the club had met its conditions regarding match-funding, or that the benefits to the town that the scheme was meant to deliver.

It also revealed that as far back as August 2014, a council official had prepared an invoice for outstanding payments of £32,000, but was asked not to send it.

Councillor Nutting's statement follows a call by the council's Labour group for a public inquiry into the matter.

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of the group, said an independent investigation was now the only way to restore confidence in Shropshire Council and said the council's public standing was at risk.

Demands for inquiry over TNS grant rejected by boss

Report by Mark Andrews

THE chief executive of Shropshire Council has rejected calls for a public inquiry into the circumstances of an £80,000 grant to a football club.

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of Shropshire Council's Labour group, and his deputy, Councillor Harry Taylor, had written to Clive Wright and council leader Councillor Peter Nutting saying an independent investigation was now needed to clear the air about money given to The New Saints of Oswestry Town FC (TNS) in 2012.

Shropshire Council says the grant was given on condition that the money was paid back by the club in the form of grants to Oswestry Town Council, but only £10,000 was actually repaid.

The Shropshire Star revealed the full findings of the council's own internal inquiry, which said it was not clear whether the failure to recover the money was by design or accident, and that at least eight opportunities to claim the money back had been missed.

Wiped

It also revealed that crucial computer files had been inadvertently wiped.

The council's Labour group has now written to chief executive Mr Wright saying it is now time for an independent figure to probe the matter more thoroughly.

Group leader Councillor Mosley said: "We've called for an independent inquiry after listening to unprecedented and growing demands from local residents who want the truth on the so called 'legacy grant' to TNS.

"The public standing of Shropshire Council risks sinking further unless this whole affair, and associated issues are investigated independently."

But Mr Wright said that while some members of the council had made allegations of wrong-doing, none of them had so far produced any evidence to back up the claims.

"There is a call from certain political parties, supported by some elected members, for an inquiry into the TNS issues," he said. "However, it is the view of council senior officers that there is nothing to be gained from this and it would not be in the public interest as the chronology of events recording what happened are clear, the police have no evidence of any crime and our audit finds no wrongdoing."

Hospital pair commended for helping students



Sophie Jones, radiographer, and Geraint Davies, Macmillan specialist physiotherapist, with their awards

TWO members of staff at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been commended with a Practice Educator Award from Keele University.

Sophie Jones, radiographer, and Geraint Davies, Macmillan specialist physiotherapist, were nominated for the award by Keele University students who had been on placement at the hospital.

The Practice Educator Awards are given

to professionals who are outstanding in their educator roles, support student education and provide an exceptional placement experience.

Sophie was nominated by Sadie Smith, Deborah Richardson and Alice Weaver, who said: "Sophie has been an outstanding mentor; nothing was too much trouble from supporting us in the early days of my placement to helping me with all our assessments.

"Her enthusiasm for radiology shines

through and she helped all the students stay motivated whilst on placement."

Geraint, who works on the specialist oncology Montgomery Unit and Oswald Ward, was nominated by Vicky Fung.

His nomination said: "Geraint is very dedicated to his work and I have learnt so much from my placement with him. He planned so many opportunities for me to experience and observe throughout my placement."

Tributes are paid to legendary Black Country comedian

LEGENDARY Black Country comedian and singer Ian 'Sludge' Lees has died, aged 74, following a short illness - prompting a flood of tributes.

The hugely-popular star, who lived in Tipton for 10 years and later moved to Middleton near Welshpool, kept television, theatre and pub audiences laughing for more than six decades with his old-school comic style mix of one-liners and rude mother-in-law tales.

He died at New Cross Hospital on Monday night last week, just weeks after being diag-

nosed with cancer. His manager of 40 years, Jake Elcock, led tributes to the comedian made famous by appearances on New Faces, All Winners, The Comedians and Tiswas. "He had all the ingredients - he had the face, he had the outrageous outfits, he had the routine and he had the timing. Sludge was simply a very funny man," he said.

"He had a locker full of jokes which kept going in a car journey all the way from Wolverhampton to Scotland. He was irreplaceable, a legend. His death is a sad loss."

Sludge was born and grew up in Cannock, first appearing as a singing act at pubs in the town aged just 10, with his father, a miner called Jim, following him round with a collection hat. He first appeared on television a year later on talent show Carroll Levis Discoveries, performing as a singer. It led him on to join several Midlands bands. including the Montanas, Telstars, Finders Keepers and Light Fantastic. With the Montanas he sang in the hit Let's Get a Little Sentimental.

His career then changed path in the late

1970s when he started work as a comedian across the Midlands. He starred on New Faces and Tiswas before getting his big break in 1992, becoming part of Granada TV's The Comedians.

He was a regular fixture at venues in the Midlands and won Midlands' Comedian Of the Year twice on two occasions. He also starred in the Black Country Night Out annual tour. He was set to join the production this year, which starts at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 11.

Families get real buzz as they learn about pollinators

FAMILIES got a real buzz as wildlife experts revealed the fascinating world of bees and other pollinators in Oswestry.

The family-friendly Pollinators Day discovery event explored the bees, wasps, butterflies and insect pollinators within the contrasting habitats of Old Oswestry hillfort and nearby Cambrian Railway.

Local wildlife experts and bee enthusiasts,

Report by Sue Austin

Will Hawkes, Chloe Aldridge and Brian Swain led families on adventures looking for the bees and butterflies and others who help pollinate the countryside.

They also gave advice on plants that encourage pollinators and what people can do at home to help revive populations for the benefit of their local ecology.

Spokeswoman Kate Clarke from Buglife, the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, said eight out of 10 of Britain's wild plants re-

lied on insects for pollination but said they faced challenges.

She said: "Yet more than 250 of our insect pollinators are in danger of extinction due to a scarcity of suitable habitat. Britain has lost 97 per cent of its flower-rich grassland since the 1940s, for example.

"By pollinating crops, insects help provide one in every three mouthfuls of the food we eat.

"As well as vegetables and fruit, such as strawberries, apples and grapes, they help provide seeds, nuts and even chocolate."



Expert Will Hawkes with Jim Stillings, Brynley Stillings and Ann Holmes

Drastic action taken to help save curlew

THE Curlew Country project is taking drastic action to help save a threatened species.

The recovery project, which works on the ground in the Shropshire Hills and Welsh Marches, has just released hand-reared curlew chicks – using a conservation practice known as headstarting – in a bid to help them on a local level.

The decision to intervene was not taken lightly as project workers spent two years using cameras and data loggers to monitor over 30 curlew nests, from which no chicks survived to hatch.

Most were predated at egg stage by foxes, so the Curlew Country project took the much-needed step of applying for a licence to incubate 50 eggs and rear them by hand.

The first batch of chicks has now flown freely, outside of their original enclosure.

This is a landmark event for the project, and for national curlew conservation, as it suggests what could be possible.

The project, hosted by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), has always worked closely with the local community and invited two small gatherings of farming partners, supporters, and volunteers to glimpse them from a distance before they were set free, with steps taken to ensure not to tame the birds.

"Headstarting chicks is not a long-term solution to curlew decline, something that all of the Curlew Country team are well aware, but it will buy us time," said project assistant Amber Bicheno. "Time in which wider solutions can be found, and where we can work with farmers to make a real difference."

The reared chicks have been fitted with colour rings with a unique two letter code. This allows them to be re-identified by other birders if the code is read.

If you spot a colour ringed curlew, you can report the sighting to Tony Cross, Curlew Country ornithologist, by e-mailing tonycross@virgin.net, alternatively you can report the sighting online via the BTO website.

Company boss sleeps rough

AN Oswestry businessman has taken part in an initiative to raise awareness of homelessness.

British Ironwork Centre chairman Clive Knowles took part in a sleep out in support of The Shrewsbury Ark and in partnership with Shropshire Homes Ark. The event was run by Shrewsbury Town in the Community and saw CEOs and business owners to take part by sleeping rough at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Mr Knowles said: "This event was created to shine a light upon this extreme issue whilst creating a new found community amidst the elements of the outdoors.

"Whilst the participants of this initiative only had to face the elements on one summer's night, out of 365 nights a year, many people across Shropshire and the UK don't have this kind of luxury. In fact, according to the Ministry of Housing, there are roughly 4,751 rough sleepers in the UK with over 20 being in Shrop-

shire County, and the number is only rising.

"With more and more people being forced to face the streets, this issue is becoming more than just an epidemic. It's critical that we, as a community, support the efforts of organisations like The Shrewsbury Ark that put so much of their time into alleviating the pressure put on those living out on the streets.

"For a summer's night it was surprisingly cold, and I found that my sleeping bag was damp even though we were lucky enough to have a dry night. I genuinely only slept for a maximum of two to three hours, and took well over a week to recover. It wasn't the lack of sleep that got me, it was the stiffness from having to sleep out on the tarmac, even with a layer of boxes.

Together, we managed to raise over £6,000 in one evening, which will go toward the continued efforts of The Shrewsbury Ark and Shrewsbury Town in the Community."

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14Cost of rural crime in county on the increase

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 9, 2018

THE cost of rural crime in Shropshire has risen by 51.5 per cent in the last year, according to new figures.

NFU Mutual's annual crime report showed the county had seen one of the biggest rises in rural crime in the country.

Across the UK, rural crime increased by 13.1 per cent, costing the country £44.5 million. The data is based on insurance claims. Vehicle thefts were by some way the most expensive crime, totalling more than £10 million.

Rural crime in Shropshire cost just over £1 million last year, up from £717,000 in 2016. Jonathan Evans, of the Shropshire NFU branch, said he was not surprised by the figures.

He said: "Rural crime is on the rise and a dedicated rural police resource is needed to tackle the problem." Mr Evans said he had seen some excellent examples of police forces getting on the front foot with rural policing, and other forces should follow suit.

Chief Supt Kevin Purcell, who is in charge of policing in the county, said: "There is no doubt that policing the vast rural areas we have in Shropshire offers unique challenges not least because of the huge geographic areas covered and the vast array of road networks weaving through the countryside."

Date revealed for next Powys careers event

A PARTNERSHIP aimed at providing helpful career information for young Powys people has announced that it will be holding the third Powys Careers Festival on March 6.

The Positive Pathways Powys Group will again be holding the event at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanellwedd.

The group is a partnership of Powys County Council, Careers Wales, secondary schools in the county, the NPTC Group of Colleges, Cambrian Training, and PAVO which aims to promote the opportunities available to Powys students after they finish compulsory education.

Jackie Parker, chair of the group, said: "I'm really pleased to announce that we are going again and I'd ask schools, colleges, businesses, universities and other organisations to save the date of Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

"We'll be announcing more details of how to get involved in the autumn but we'll be looking to make next year's bigger and better, so that we offer young Powys students the best information we can on what opportunities await them when they leave compulsory education."

This year, some 3,000 students from high schools, special schools and colleges from across Powys visited the Powys Careers Festival at the showground.

There were more than 100 exhibitors, including universities, businesses, colleges, training companies and other organisations.

Indecency acts could close loo

A PUBLIC toilet could be shut after reports of public indecency taking place, it has been revealed.

It has been highlighted that the toilets on Colliery Road in Chirk near Oswestry have been subject to a number of police reports about acts of indecency.

No one has been caught, however police community support officer in the area, Martin Griffiths has raised the issue with the town council.

He told councillors there have been a number of reports of males engaging in sexual acts at the toilets

He said if they can't catch those responsible or find a solution, they could have to close the toilets.

A council member, Jackie Allen said closing the toilets should be a last resort, but the councillor said a lack of available funding is an issue.

It was suggested that CCTV cameras should be installed outside the toilet, to monitor those using it frequently.

If anyone has any information on these incidents they are urged to contact police on 101.

Voting age for Welsh Assembly elections to be lowered to 16, commission bosses say

Report by Jonny Drury

The second phase will focus on the question of the increase in size of the Assembly and the related decision on which voting system should be used to elect Assembly Members.

The commission has committed to allowing more time for discussions with political parties to take place over the coming months on these matters.

These discussions will allow a decision to be taken as to whether the commission will be able to legislate on these matters before 2021.

The commission's decisions on Assembly Reform have been announced alongside the publication of a summary of the key findings

of the commission's public consultation, Creating a Parliament for Wales. The consultation, which closed on April 6, asked people in Wales to share their views on a range of proposals, including the recommendations of the independent Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform.

The panel, chaired by Professor Laura McAllister CBE, recommended in December 2017 that 16 and 17-year-olds should be given the right to vote in Assembly elections.

More than 3,200 consultation responses were received and respondents could choose to answer all questions, or just those of most interest to them.

Of the 1,530 who responded to the voting age question, 59 per cent agreed it should be

lowered to 16 years old. "Empowering young people to vote at 16 is a powerful statement from the Assembly that we value their views," said Elin Jones AM, Llywydd of the National Assembly for Wales.

"Votes at 16 will have to be accompanied by appropriate political and citizenship education and public awareness-raising to ensure young people are encouraged and supported to exercise their right to vote."

"We will work with the Welsh Government and other partners, including our own Youth Parliament to support this need."

The commission intends to legislate to change the minimum voting age in time for the next election in 2021 and to change the name to Welsh Parliament a year ahead of the elections.

Opposition councillors hit out at investment strategy

Report by Emily Lloyd

OPPOSITION councillors have criticised decisions over Shropshire Council investments.

Liberal Democrat Hannah Fraser asked if the authority "lacked imagination" after the end-of-year accounts showed £92 million in the council's reserves.

She questioned why the funds were not being utilised at a time when the council faced more than £100m in savings over the next five years.

Her comments came as some councillors continued to question the £52m purchase of three Shrewsbury shopping centres, which was completed at the start of the year.

Councillor Fraser said: "There is £92m in a bank account with a low-rate interest when our corporate strategy is pushed to save.

"Is there a lack of imagination on the part of the council to find good projects to invest in and create revenue?"

She was supported by Liberal Democrat leader Roger Evans, who accused the cabinet of "failing" the council and said the balanced budget was "nothing to be proud of".

Balanced

He added: "The council has delivered a balanced budget but that certainly wasn't because of the actions of the cabinet.

"Over 17 per cent of savings due to be made this year were not made - that is over £2.5m.

"If this was a household what would happen? They would be taken to court because they hadn't paid their bills."

But council leader Peter Nutting said the Liberal Democrats would have "bankrupt" the council had they been in charge.

"It's easy to criticise without coming up with positive actions," he said.

"If the Liberals were in charge they would have bankrupt the council by now.

"Every year you say we should be spending money, but we have to keep some in reserves. That £91m is cash fall.

"We have had a difficult budgets for a number of years but we are getting it back."

Councillor David Minnery, portfolio holder for finance, who presented the 2017/18 accounts to the council, said there was "confusion" from members.

"Remember that the amount of money we have in the bank has got nothing to do with the capital programme," he said.

"It is designed to help the council with the work it does."

Wildlife project enjoys otterly brilliant success



Pete Lambert and Jenna Shaw, Shropshire otter project officer, at Shropshire Wildlife Trust in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

A PROJECT that works to ensure the survival of otters living in the River Severn is celebrating a year of success since its launch last summer.

The Shropshire Wildlife Trust was awarded £5,000 through Tesco's Bags of Help initiative in May last year and has used the funding to raise awareness and undertake important habitat management, resulting in a significant growth in otter population levels.

The funding allowed the Shropshire Otter Project to carry out vital research, meaning conservation officers now have a better understanding of otter behaviour, including feeding patterns and the relationship between water condition and otter success.

Three holts - otter homes - have now been built along the river with permission from landowners and officers are carrying out demonstrations on habitat and management

works to locals. This helps landowners better understand otter requirements for survival, which include clean rivers with an abundant, varied supply of food and plenty of bank-side vegetation offering seclusion.

Shropshire otter project manager Pete Lambert said: "The funding from Tesco has helped us revive otter populations in the area and we're asking the local community to help in any way they can."

Canal visitors urged to photograph blooming boats

THIS summer Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales, is encouraging people to set out on a voyage of discovery and help celebrate West Midlands' most beautiful blooming boats.

At this time of year hundreds of boats around the region are festooned with flowers, and the trust wants people to spread the word.

The charity is asking people to visit the West Midlands waterways - close to home or further afield - and, if they come across a blossom-

ing boat that takes their breath away, to take a photo and share it on the trust's Facebook and Twitter pages, with the hashtag #boatsinbloom. It's free to stroll along the towpath and, with eight million people living within a kilometre of a canal or river, it's one of the most accessible ways to enjoy the summer sun.

It comes at a time when more boats are using the waterways than any time since the Industrial Revolution, with the renaissance of 200-year old canals benefiting local economies, tourism, and the health and happiness of com-

munities. Lynn Pegler at the Canal & River Trust, said: "Take a walk along any towpath in the West Midlands and you'll come across a boat that lifts your spirits with its spectacular display of flowers. We want you to capture that moment of stumbling across something new or special and share it with others. A beautiful picture can inspire people to get out and try something different, and maybe come down and experience our wonderful waterways for themselves.

"Our teams and volunteers work hard to

keep the waterways open and in great shape so everyone can enjoy them, while the huge variety of boats that cruise them really bring them to life with charm and vibrancy.

"There are all sorts of boats: the iconic narrowboat, historic craft, wide beam barges, and motor cruisers, not to mention rowing boats and other paddle craft. They're used for many different things, from floating homes to leisure boats used to explore the network for pleasure, to a whole host of businesses that trade from the waterline."

Get out and about in our region

Commercial feature

With the weather so wonderful this summer, the time is perfect to get out and about and enjoy everything the Oswestry and Welshpool areas have to offer.

There is plenty around the region to keep you and your family entertained.

Oswestry is a popular market town and is renowned for its many family-owned independent retail outlets.

A warm welcome is always guaranteed from the shopkeepers of Oswestry and many visitors come to the town to enjoy its traditional market too. Oswestry is a great place to visit at any time of the year and its Iron Age hillfort is a major attraction to history enthusiasts. It has its own visitor and exhibition centre and its many fine pubs and hotels are always a huge draw. Within easy driving distance of the town are many visitor attractions including Park Hall Countryside Experience and the British Ironwork Centre while nearby Chirk Castle and Whittington Castle are also huge attractions for many. Welshpool and Mid Wales have plenty to shout about too. In fact, of the 'Seven Wonders of Wales' - Snowdon, Llangollen, Wrexham, Overton, Gresford, Llanrhaeadr and St Winefride's Well - the majority lie within half an hour of Shropshire's border. They include the Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site, which extends from Llangollen, with its Horseshoe Falls, the International Eisteddfod, heritage railway and nearby Pontcysyllte aqueduct, to the Shropshire border at Chirk, with the canal tunnel and impressive aqueduct spanning the England-Wales border.

The tiny village of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, not far from Oswestry, is well off the beaten track but also attracts visitors in their droves each year. The village is the home to Pistyll Rhaeadr, one of the Seven Wonders of Wales. At 240ft Llanrhaeadr (Tan-y-Pistyll) Waterfall is among the highest in England or Wales, with



The magnificent Powis Castle at Welshpool is a huge tourist attraction

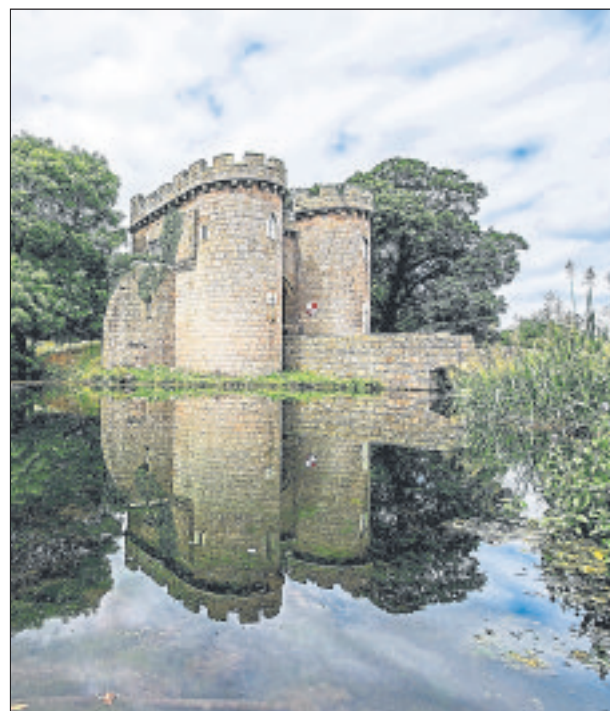
footpaths leading to the top of the falls and a cafe at the bottom.

In Welshpool the medieval castle, fortress and grand country mansion of Powis Castle attracts thousands of visitors each year to explore its

magnificent gardens. Heading further into the Mid Wales countryside visitors can discover Lake Vyrnwy with its wood sculpture park and RSPB nature reserve.

The lake is a popular destination for days out,

bird watchers, cyclists and hikers who want to explore Glyndwr's Way, as well as hosting a variety of charity events each year as people cycle, run or walk around the perimeter of the lake.



Whittington Castle near Oswestry is a site full of history

The site also, until recently, had another claim to fame as the home to the tallest tree in the UK, a Douglas Fir standing 63.79m (209 ft) high. This tree was damaged in stormy weather in 2014 and had to be felled.

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16College has another dog training venue

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 9, 2018

NORTH Shropshire College has announced that due to the popularity of dog training courses, a further venue is available for people to bring their four legged friends to.

Currently the college has dog training classes ranging from puppy, bronze, silver and gold at venues in Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitchurch. New for September the Walford campus will be opening its doors to dog training classes which is ideal for people living in the Baschurch, Ruyton XI Towns and Shrewsbury area.

Tutor Melissa Nicholson is really pleased with being able to offer more courses. She said: "It's great news for us adding Walford campus as a venue. The courses are available for all dogs – pedigree or crossbreed, young or old – to improve their obedience, socialise and enjoy learning new skills."

With a wealth of experience in this area Melissa is encouraging anyone who has a dog to come along to the training and develop new skills.

Courses are delivered over 10 weeks and run at three levels; puppy/beginner, improver and advanced. Dogs must be up to date with vaccines and happy to work alongside other dogs and people. Anyone interested in the courses or in booking a place can do so via the website at www.nsc.ac.uk, or by calling (01691) 688000.

Police dealing with more hate crime offences

POLICE covering Shropshire and Powys are dealing with more incidents of homophobic hate crime.

The latest Home Office figures show 23 incidents of hate crime against transgender people were recorded by West Mercia Police during 2016/17, up from 21 in 2015/16.

Five years earlier, when such data was first published, three incidents were reported. Over the same period, 154 people reported homophobic hate crime to West Mercia Police – an increase of 57 per cent on the year previously.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell, who leads West Mercia Police's response to hate crime, said: "No-one should be targeted for being themselves and we can never underestimate the devastating effect being a victim of a hate crime can have on people."

"Over the past few years we have worked very hard to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encourage people to come forward and report this to police, working with our partners to make sure support is available. We recognise how it important it is in getting our response to hate crime right and are currently carrying out a lot of work to improve this and our contact with victims."

The figures also show there were 35 incidents of homophobic hate crime reported to Dyfed-Powys Police in 2016/17. They were incidents where gay, lesbian or bisexual people were abused or attacked due to their identity, rising from 16 in 2015/16.

Various activities will be available

OSWESTRY-BASED charity, Qube, has a varied programme of activities for all the family this summer holidays.

The programme features everything from arts and crafts workshops to science and engineering challenges and tai chi. The activities are all suitable for anyone over five years old.

Caroline Wix, courses rganiser, said "We've worked hard to put together a wide variety of different activities, there really is something for everyone."

Family tickets cost just £15 per session, either for two adults and children or for one adult and three children. Individual tickets are priced at £5.

For more information or to book a place on any of the sessions call Qube on (01691) 656882.

Qube, the Oswestry Community Action, is a North Shropshire based charity whose aim is to improve the quality of life for people in Oswestry through the provision of education and learning, community transport services, a volunteer centre, arts and culture, a Shopmobility service and care services.

Shrewsbury's Percy Thrower's garden centre sold but Oswestry site remains on market

PERCY Thrower's Garden Centre in Shrewsbury has been sold off by its parent company Wyevale.

The company has revealed that it has sold eight of its 145 sites to Blue Diamond. But these do not include sites in Oswestry, Telford and Albrighton, which remain on the market.

Blue Diamond will be investing £16 million in remodelling the centres over the next three years to make them more like its Redfields Garden & Living Centre in Hampshire, and its Blue Diamond Garden and Home store near Nottingham.

Percy Thrower opened his garden centre in 1970 and the Thrower family sold in 2000 to the Bristol-based Garden and Leisure Group.

Report by James Pugh

Alan Roper, managing director of Blue Diamond, said: "We are delighted to be acquiring these fantastic centres."

"We look forward to working with our new colleagues across the centres and welcoming them into the Blue Diamond family."

In separate transactions, Wyevale has also agreed the sale of two further centres in Alfild and Binfield to Q Developments and Spitfire Bespoke Homes respectively.

It has also agreed to sell a parcel of excess land adjacent to its Beaconsfield centre to Oakford Homes.

The company said all three sites are likely

to be redeveloped for residential use. Anthony Jones, chief financial officer of Wyevale Garden Centres, said: "These centres were previously identified for potential redevelopment as part of the company's active portfolio management strategy."

"We continue to explore all opportunities on non-core centres as part of the ongoing sale process."

"We are very grateful for the dedication and commitment of the teams at these centres."

Wyevale said discussions regarding the sale to Blue Diamond and the individual centre sales started before the appointment of Christie & Co to explore offers for all or part of the remaining Wyevale Garden Centre group business.

With the process is continuing, the company has revealed that it has received a number of offers for all or part of the remaining business from a range of national, regional and financial operators as well as local business people.

Biggest

Owned by Terra Firma, Wyevale is the UK's biggest garden centre chain with 145 garden centres, ranging from local horticultural centres to major leisure destination venues.

Employing about 6,000 people, it began as a mail order nursery in 1932 before becoming one of the UK's earliest garden centres in 1966.

Meanwhile, Blue Diamond currently operates 21 garden centres in England and the Channel Islands.

Full-fibre broadband 'unlikely' in county by 2033 says council

Report by Aimee Jones

IT is unlikely Shropshire will have full-fibre broadband by 2033 – a target set by the government – according to the council.

The Government has revealed a new digital strategy which recommends all homes across the UK should have access to the very best broadband coverage.

But Shropshire Council has now said that target is not realistic for the county.

Elliott Lynch, Shropshire Council's deputy cabinet member for economic support, said: "Given the rural nature of the council area, with premises spread out everywhere, it's very unlikely that full fibre deployment here will be commercially viable even by 2033."

"Therefore, full-fibre will require intervention to address this market failure, in much the same way that Broadband Delivery UK has done through projects such as Connecting Shropshire."

Full-fibre connections – which are faster, more reliable and cheaper to run compared with traditional copper-based networks – only stand at four per cent in the UK, lagging behind other European countries, including Spain at 71 per cent and Portugal at 89 per cent.

The Government has said that without change, full-fibre broadband networks will at best only ever reach three-quarters of the country.

It hopes that changes to regulation and an industry-led switch over from copper to full-fibre co-ordinated with Ofcom will help drive private investment and minimise the cost.

Nic Laurens, the council's cabinet member for economic growth, and with responsibility for the Connecting Shropshire programme, added: "While we recognise and applaud the ambition of the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review, we know from regular dialogue with our businesses and residents that they are desperate for access to better broadband."

The proposals set out by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport also recommend legislation to guarantee new homes are fitted with full-fibre broadband.

Daniel Kawczynski, Shrewsbury & Atcham MP, said current coverage was not satisfactory.

He tweeted: "Provision of fibre broadband in Shrewsbury and across Shropshire far from satisfactory. @Dunne4Ludlow & I have written to Clive Selley, CEO of @WeAreOpenreach to seek a meeting & further information on their plans going forward."

Water refills free in battle against plastic use



Sara Taylor of the Dragon Hotel fills water bottles for thirsty cyclist Claire Weston and walkers Brett and Jill Kibble

A TOWN has become a "refill area" as part of the international battle to cut down on the use of plastic bottles.

Montgomery near Welshpool has signed up to the national Refill scheme with the Dragon Hotel the first business to get involved.

Refill is a national tap water campaign which aims to make refilling water bottles easy and convenient by signing up refill stations. It has produced a map that can be downloaded

to phones that lets people know the locations where they can fill their bottle for free.

Stuart Taylor from the Dragon Hotel said: "We are proud to be a 'refill station'. If you are visiting Montgomery and need your water bottles topped up, then feel free to pop in and say hello." Attending the Montgomery Street Fair in the heat, Sharon Bishop was in full support of the scheme.

She said: "I was really grateful to the Dragon

Hotel for letting me refill my reusable water bottle during the day and with ice too. It is a great scheme, especially in this weather."

Organisers say that with the Montgomery Trails scheme it is encouraging increasing numbers of cyclists, walkers and families to visit the town. They want other local businesses to join the scheme to help keep visitors hydrated, while at the same time reducing the number of single-use plastic bottles.

Decision made on name of new Mid Wales bypass

AFTER a number of suggestions about what it should be called a decision has been made on the name of a multi-million pound bypass.

The Newtown bypass is set to be completed next year, and with that in mind a number of names have been suggested and received council backing.

However, Welsh Assembly minister for transport Ken Skates has confirmed the Newtown bypass will be called...the Newtown Bypass.

The minister has responded to requests for an answer from Montgomeryshire AM Russell

George, and insists the name will remain. However consultations will take place with locals about adding names to different areas of the bypass, possibly bridges and roundabouts.

He said: "I'm aware of requests to rename the bypass being made with the view to promoting and recognising Newtown's history."

"With this in mind, the name Newtown Bypass will remain but I would like Newtown Town Council to consult with local people on what they'd like to propose for any additional promotion of the Newtown area."

"We have already consulted successfully and agreed the tourism signing on the bypass with the town council and see this as an additional opportunity to recognise local interest or history."

"Options could potentially include junction naming on the bypass or provision of information boards at lay bys that form part of the bypass."

In recent months, the Brimmon Oak Bypass was one suggestion, after the bypass route was diverted around the ancient tree to preserve its

routes. And Newtown Town Council backed the idea of calling it the Fford Robert Owen Way, in homage to the social reformer who was one of the town's most famous sons.

Mr George is in agreement with the minister, and wants other things on the route to be named.

He added: "I think the bypass needs to remain as the bypass, because in the end people will just refer to it as the Newtown Bypass anyway. Other things that could be named are roundabouts and bridges."

Proposal to close village school continues to progress

COUNCILLORS are set to press ahead with plans to close a small primary school as part of an education restructure in the Ceiriog Valley near Oswestry.

Pontfadog School is set to have its doors closed under the plans.

A decision on the school was due to be taken by Wrexham Council's executive board at a meeting yesterday (Tuesday).

The plans are to close the school and relocate pupils to Cynnddelw, after a vote was passed earlier this year.

If the plans do go ahead, Pontfadog will take in its last intake in September and then close in summer 2019.

The meeting yesterday was due to discuss the school's fate and also the consultation and response to the plans.

In total 1,349 objections have been received to the plans, as locals have rallied around in a bid to knock the plans back.

The council will take into account the responses, but has said that the current model is not sustainable, with Pontfadog having just 18

pupils. A report to the meeting says: "Having explored the options available to the federation, to ensure sustainability in the immediate future, providing the most effective and efficient education services to the pupils of the Ceiriog Valley, members are asked to consider the responses received and the resulting recommendations.

"There is a growing Welsh medium demand in the Ceiriog Valley and the English medium numbers are dropping as a consequence at both Ysgol Pontfadog and within the Ysgol Cynd-

delw English medium stream. Sustainability has become a significant issue within the federation and other models for delivery need to be explored." The report adds: "There are currently just 18 pupils accessing Ysgol Pontfadog; this model is not sustainable.

"There is a requirement to make teaching and learning as effective and as efficient as possible whilst enhancing the learning experiences of the pupils in larger social groups." The closure of the school would also net the council a £100,000 saving.

Adventures ahead for Chris



Chris Morris gets ready for his fundraising challenges

AN adventurous patient at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is attempting a series of daunting fundraising challenges – ending with an assault on Mount Everest.

Chris Morris, who lives in Llanfyllin and attends physiotherapy sessions at the hospital, will be trekking to the Mount Everest Base Camp in April.

Leading up to his climb, Chris is also taking part in a series of challenges in hope to raise at least £2,000 to be split between the physiotherapy department and Baschurch Day Unit, where his mum, Patsy Jukes, is a staff nurse.

Chris said: "I've always wanted to conquer Mount Everest so it seemed fitting to raise money for a local charity at the same time. Myself, and many of my family members and friends have all received amazing care from RJAHS over the years and it's fantastic to have such a great hospital on our doorstep.

"I'm fundraising to give something back,

whether the money helps the areas maintain their current facilities or contribute to new equipment, and to say thank you for the care I've received as a patient.

"Trekking up and down Mount Everest will take 15 days and I'll reach a total height of approximately 5,500 metres which is roughly four times higher than Snowdon."

On July 21, Chris took part in his first challenge.

He said: "I completed the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge where I hiked up Snowdon and Cadair Idris in Snowdonia National Park and Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

"I managed to do all three mountains in nine hours and 49 minutes. I'm really happy I managed to have completed it in less than 12 hours.

To donate to Chris, people can visit his JustGiving page at justgiving.com/fundraising/chrismorris0791.

Walkers raise £6,000 in trek up Snowdon

OVER 125 walkers joined together to trek up Mount Snowdon in memory of a popular and highly respected Shropshire doctor and a young orthopaedic patient whilst also raising almost £6,000 for a ground-breaking Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre.

The annual Snowpaedic Challenge is organised by The Orthopaedic Institute, a charity based at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital which supports research and teaching through voluntary contributions to benefit patients.

This year, the walk was held in memory of consultant orthopaedic surgeon Professor 'Prof' James Richardson, an enthusiastic supporter of the event who sadly passed away earlier this year, and was also held in memory of hospital patient Stuart Dickens.

Debra Alexander, fundraiser for the Orthopaedic Institute, said: "Stuart had two hip replacements due to a rare bone condition, avascular necrosis, which causes a loss of blood supply resulting in the bones decaying.

"His surgery was performed at RJAHS under the care of consultant orthopaedic surgeon and army surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer.

"To thank Lt Col Meyer and RJAHS for his care, Stuart decided to walk up Mount Snowdon to help raise money which is how the Snowpaedic Challenge was born.

"This is only one of the fundraising events Stuart initiated and he helped raise over £16,000 towards the new Veterans' Centre.

"Sadly, Stuart passed away on May 4 at only 30 years old."

Report by Jonny Drury

Recently, a £1.5 million appeal was launched to fund a Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre at the hospital which will allow veterans and serving military personnel to be treated in a dedicated care environment.

The service, which is the first of its kind in the UK, is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer.

A total of 126 walkers braved the adverse conditions on the day to walk up Prof's preferred route, the Llanberis Path, which is approximately nine miles up and down.

Debra added: "We had 119 people booked to participate in the challenge but given the weather forecast I expected around 50 to show up.

"I was delighted and amazed at the number of people who showed up to take part.

Expected

"So far we have raised almost £6,000 and still have more sponsorship money expected to come in over the next few weeks.

"After the walk, we held a toast to Prof and Stuart who are both very special gentlemen and will be remembered for many reasons, but especially for their kindness and consideration to others.

"I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Snowpaedic Challenge and for their continued support."

To support the Veterans Orthopaedic Centre campaign, details can be found on the dedicated webpage at www.rjah.nhs.uk/voca

Anyone who would like to take part in next year's Snowpaedic Challenge, should contact Debra Alexander on (01691) 404561.

Council announces freeze on recruitment to save money

A RECRUITMENT freeze has been put in place at Shropshire Council as the authority looks to stay within its budget.

The council's chief executive announced the decision to councillors and the move has been met with criticism from Liberal Democrat opposition councillors, who warned that the measures could put added pressure on the council's officers.

Liberal Democrat leader Roger Evans said: "Overloaded officers

will now be asked once again to cover and carry out work that should be carried out by another employee due to the continued failure of the Conservative administration to manage the council's budget." Mr Wright had said the freeze was being put in place with immediate effect and had been carried out following consultation with the council's leader, Peter Nutting, and his cabinet. The chief executive said the move was designed to ensure

the authority can "operate within budget limits". The decision means that any new staff to be employed will have to be approved by service directors and ultimately signed off personally by Mr Wright. In his e-mail the chief executive added: "We have operated recruitment freezes previously and I am pleased to say that managers were extremely diligent and few inappropriate recruitment proposals came forward."

Absence of potholes sparks report anger

A COUNCILLOR responsible for highways has been criticised for a roads report – because it fails to mention potholes.

Portfolio holder for highways and transport at Shropshire Council, Councillor Steve Davenport, presented his annual report to the full council at its last meeting before the summer.

The document highlights key achievements over the last year, including bringing back Environmental Maintenance Grants and being awarded £3.88 million for the A52 near Market Drayton.

He said: "It's been a tough year to say the least.

"Most of my decisions have gone through scrutiny but such a lot has been achieved because of the work of our excellent

officers. But of course, we do have some way to go." But Councillor Roger Evans said he could not support the report because a number of key areas had not been addressed.

"For one, potholes have not even been mentioned," he said. "And I would like to know what the portfolio holder is doing about it.

"This report makes everything seem hunky dory when it is not."

Councillor Jonny Keeley added: "I would like to know why a pothole is not a priority before an accident but it is after one.

"My partner and baby were involved in a serious accident where the car hit a pothole and ripped the front left tyre. I'd

been concerned about it for a long time, but nothing was done. It was then fixed the day after."

Councillor Davenport told members that another Roadmaster machine is coming over from Ireland to continue the council's work in tackling potholes and urged councillors to send him pictures and details of any potholes that need repairing. Questions about the Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Plan, which encompasses the roadworks on Shrewsbury's Pride Hill, were also raised.

Councillor Evans said: "It's a bomb site at the moment. Why is no one working on Pride Hill at night?" Councillor Davenport confirmed the work is scheduled to finish in November.

Route will 'seize up' unless work is done on road

A MAIN route between Shropshire and Mid Wales will "seize up" soon if something isn't done about the ever increasing traffic issues, according to one of the region's MPs.

Over the summer major tailbacks and traffic problems on the A5 into Oswestry and onto the A483 into Pant and Llany-mynech have led to campaigners renewing calls for a new bypass.

Work has been ongoing for a while between Midlands Connect, Shropshire Council, the Welsh Government and other organisations exploring the statistics behind a need for a bypass and for improvement works to the A5 near Oswestry.

That work is still ongoing, and North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, who has been campaigning for an A483 bypass at Pant and Llanymynech for many years has warned that if something doesn't happen, the whole route will seize up. He said: "At 10am on Monday the A5 was at a complete standstill, and if something doesn't happen with that stretch and the start of the A483, things will seize up all together. It will hit business and the economy in North Wales and the Midlands, because nothing will be able to move. There is strategic work going on behind the scenes, to gather the data and come up with a plan to show that works are justified, which they are."

Charities are boosted by cash collection

DONATIONS collected at the recent Rotary Club of Oswestry bucket collection at M&S Simply Food in Oswestry have been presented to two of the three nominated charities.

Although unable to receive their cheque, Shropshire Young Carers will also receive £140 as presented to the Oswestry charities Transhouse and Designs In Mind.

Receiving their cheques from Oswestry Rotary Club's former community chair Mike Griffiths, both were very grateful to the donors who had contributed to the collection in the M&S store.

Designs In Mind CEO Catherine Wilks said: "We are very proud of Jolt our retail brand. Support like this can help us to just pay the shop rent for example so that we keep mental health on the high street and part of everyday life."

Suzanne Smith of Transhouse commented: "We value all support as it can help our Transhouse residents take part in normal social activities in our homes so that they are able to participate in society when they leave us." Mike Griffiths thanked the shoppers at M&S Simply Food for supporting the collection. He said: "These local charities continue to do valuable work in our community and we are pleased to be able to help them in this way."

MP is backing rural crime line

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has pledged his support to the Rural Crime Reporting Line, a new service for farmers and the public to give information anonymously about rural crime.

Supporters of the scheme say rural crime is a serious issue for farmers, rural businesses and those who live in the countryside, and it can have significant impacts on a farm or another rural business.

Launched by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) in partnership with the Crimestoppers charity, farmers, rural businesses and the public can ring 0800 783 0137 or visit www.ruralcrimereporting-line.uk to anonymously give information about crime relating to large-scale, industrial fly-tipping, hare coursing, machinery theft and livestock theft.

Mr Davies said: "Rural crime can have devastating impacts, particularly in areas such as Montgomeryshire. It is vital that we are all vigilant in reporting such crimes, and the new Rural Crime Reporting Line will provide an important tool in helping to rid this blight on our countryside.

"I fully support the NFU and Crimestoppers in providing a service for farmers and the public to give information anonymously about these crimes."

18 Students help launch county well-being plan

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 9, 2018

PUPILS in Powys joined public officials to launch 'Towards 2040', the county's well-being plan.

The plan has been developed as a blueprint for the future of people in Powys by the Public Service Board, an organisation including Powys County Council, Dyfed Powys Police, Powys Teaching Health Board, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales.

Leader of Powys County Council and chair of the Powys Public Service Board, Councillor Rosemarie Harris said: "Towards 2040 Powys well-being plan is all about making sure that everyone in Powys is fulfilled in all aspects of their lives; so that they feel safe, happy and contented in their environment."

#Towards2040 is an initiative of 12 steps which aims to improve the long term cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of people in Powys.

The Powys Public Service Board is required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 to develop the plan.

Pupils from Newtown High school, John Beddoes campus and Radnor Valley primary school took part in a variety of activities in the woods led by police officers, fire safety officers and healthy eating experts. Two native apple trees were planted to mark the occasion.

Police warn firms about scam emails

A POLICE force is urging independent business owners not to respond to threatening scam emails demanding payment of £10,000 in Bitcoin.

Dyfed-Powys Police has received three reports from businesses who have received threatening emails. The emails use strong language to demand £10,000 in Bitcoin within three days. The sender claims they have a fight booked to the UK, and threatens the recipient with violence if they do not pay.

All three emails reported to the force by businesses in Carmarthenshire and Powys have contained the same wording.

Detective Sergeant Rob Gravelle, from the Digital Communications and Cyber Crime Unit, said: "A scam email appears to be circulating, targeting businesses across the force.

"The sender is threatening violence unless a large amount of money is sent. Thankfully the three people who have reported the emails to us have not paid any money but we are concerned that some business owners might feel threatened into transferring the funds.

"We would urge anyone who has received an email of this kind not to click any links, not to reply to the email, or contact the sender in any way, not to open any attachments, and report the incident to Action Fraud."

Reports can be made to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

AM impressed by firm's work

ASSEMBLY Member Ken Skates believes the future's bright for a growing company after taking a tour of its state-of-the-art headquarters.

The Clwyd South AM visited the Archwood Group in Chirk near Oswestry.

He visit the firm to hear about its expanding product range and plans for the future.

The Archwood Group is the company behind Masons Timber Products and wood fixtures firms Richard Burbidge and Atkinson & Kirby.

Mr Skates said he was impressed by the company and its plans.

Mr Skates said: "I really enjoyed visiting Archwood's award-winning manufacturing facility and meeting the dynamic leadership team, led by chief executive Tony Miles.

"Archwood's brands have an excellent, long-standing reputation in the timber products market.

"There are exciting plans afoot for further developing the company's portfolio of products and brands in the coming years, and the future certainly looks bright."

Councillor questions whether consultation on A&E is simply a 'tell and sell' exercise

Report by Emily Lloyd

A CONSULTATION into the future of emergency health care across Shropshire has been dubbed a "tell and sell" exercise.

Health bosses behind the Future Fit shake-up came under fire as councillors from Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin said there was widespread scepticism of the programme.

Councillor Andy Burford said many people felt the decision to create a countywide emergency department at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) and have planned care at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford was "a foregone conclusion" as it was the preferred option of both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Councillor Burford, who co-chairs the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee,

said: "People may feel this is a foregone conclusion."

He asked health bosses: "It prompts the question what somebody might be able to say to you at consultation events or via the survey to change your minds to adapt or alter your decision in some way.

"Are you just informing or telling and selling, or are you really consulting about these options?"

"It feels to me like it is more tell and sell."

Councillor Karen Calder, who also co-chairs the committee, said after promises from health bosses in the past there was "cynicism" and

"angst" from the public about whether their comments were being listened to.

Health bosses denied any predetermination. David Evans, chief officer for Telford CCG, said he was "disappointed" by Councillor Burford's comments, adding they were "obliged" to consider consultation responses.

Dr Simon Freeman, accountable officer for Shropshire CCG, said he shared Mr Evans's "frustrations", but continued: "It could be a major piece of work, like a suggestive third site model, or it could be changes around the preferred model, or changes to the preferred model.

"We are demonstrating we are listening – and if anyone has evidence of any predetermination I would like to see it."

Meanwhile Councillor Stephen Burrell said he was "disturbed" after the consultation mid-point review revealed only 0.5 per cent of the population had responded.

Pam Schreier, head of communications and engagement for Future Fit, told the meeting one per cent was "considered to be good" by independent reviewers.

She said: "We would normally in every consultation see more responses come in the second half – and normally expect to see a spike at the very end of the consultation."

Dr Freeman added: "I would like to see a far greater response.

"We are doing everything we can to get people to respond and will do anything we can to get that higher rate of response."

Just 0.5 per cent of public join Future Fit discussion

Report by Mat Growcott

LESS than 0.5 per cent of people served by Shropshire's hospitals have had their say on the Future Fit consultation, it has been revealed.

The people behind the public consultation on the future of Shropshire's health-care said that only about 2,445 people had responded so far, up from 1,515 people at the survey's midpoint.

About 500,000 people are served by Shropshire's two hospitals, the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal in Telford. Last week clinicians rejected proposals to replicate the model in Northumbria and to create a third hospital to provide specialist emergency care. Dr Simon Freeman, accountable officer for Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), who chaired the programme board meeting, said although it would be the "best solution", it would not be feasible.

"We'd like to encourage people to find out more about our proposals and have their say as part of the consultation," he said.

Important

"It's important people share with us what the options mean for them and what we need to consider putting in place or changing so they can receive the best possible care in the future."

Of those responding, 61 per cent have been women and 34 per cent have been men.

A report on Future Fit up to its halfway point said: "Anecdotally, women are more likely to respond to health consultations on behalf of their families and the women and children's element of the consultation may be prompting more women to respond."

Nearly a quarter of those responding were aged between 59 and 69, with another 21 per cent aged over 70.

Only three per cent of respondents were aged between 16 and 26. About 85 per cent of respondents were white British, with about five per cent identifying as Welsh.

Bosses said they would be working hard to reach a wider variety of various races and religious groups.

The report said: "Combined area data shows white British as 93.7 per cent compared to 84 per cent of survey respondents. Other ethnicity data is currently in line with expectations from combined area data, however significant activity is planned for the second half of the consultation to reach various race and religion groups."

Tina is named latest health hero at hospital



Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth presents Tina Davies with her health hero award, watched by colleagues

A "KIND and thoughtful" ward clerk has been named the latest health hero at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Tina Davies, who works on Baschurch Day Unit, won the award for being an ambassador and first point of contact for the unit.

The award was presented to her by Mark Brandreth, chief executive, in front of patients on Baschurch Day Unit who were waiting to go for surgery.

Ms Davies said: "I'm so shocked, it hasn't hit home that I was chosen as a winner but I'm so grateful."

"I absolutely love the hospital, I've worked here for 10 years and I've met some amazing people and made great friends along the way – I'm very lucky."

She was announced the latest winner at the hospital's recent board of directors meeting.

Mr Brandreth said: "Tina is really on the

frontline, she is often the first person our patients interact with when they come to Baschurch Day Unit.

"It's so important she leaves a positive impression on them, as that can have a huge impact on how they perceive their whole experience at the hospital.

"The patients had positive things to say about Tina when they arrived at the unit. She is a very worthy winner."

Action call to help meet carbon reduction targets

ONLY a bold and decisive 10-year strategy will boost low-carbon housing construction and help meet Wales's own carbon reduction targets, says a National Assembly committee.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee found that Wales has the oldest housing stock in Europe. It also concluded that the scale and pace of delivering highly energy efficient homes needs to be urgently increased, or it will fail to meet the challenge it faces.

The Welsh Government has committed to

reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 but the committee found the possibility of meeting this target was some way off.

Making housing in Wales more energy efficient, Assembly Members concluded, will be one of the main ways of achieving this.

As well as retro-fitting existing housing stock and ensuring new-build homes meet zero carbon standards, the 10-year low-carbon strategy should also involve a complimentary planning and building system with low-carbon and energy efficiency at their centres, and supported

by rigorous, independent inspection regimes.

The committee called for financial incentives to encourage buyers and owners to buy low-carbon housing and invest in retrofit measures and called for funding interventions that maximise the impact of Welsh Government investment in low-carbon housing.

The committee said a fully-trained workforce, ready to construct and improve homes using the latest technologies, was needed.

"There are many reasons why we should improve the energy efficiency of our housing

stock. The most pressing is the need to deliver on legal obligations to eliminate fuel poverty and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases," said Mike Hedges AM, Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

"The Welsh Government is required to reduce emissions by 40 per cent by 2018 and by 80 per cent by 2050. Challenging targets need challenging solutions. Reducing the amount of energy we use in our homes will substantially accelerate progress towards these goals."

Burial fees for children set to be scrapped under plans

A LOCAL authority is joining with councils across Wales to scrap burial fees for children up to 18 years old.

Following a campaign by MP for Swansea East, Carolyn Harris, who lost her son in a road accident, the Welsh Government is seeking agreements from local authorities to abolish burial fees.

They have published a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Welsh Government and local authorities to establish a consistent approach to child burial fees. The

intention is to scrap burial fees for children up to 18 years old.

Currently fees for burying children under 18 range from £188 to above £600.

People can also buy an exclusive right of burial that is for 50 years that cannot be extended within five years of expiry.

A report is to be considered by Powys County Council and it sets out that funding up to £600,000 will be available among authorities to cover the cost of waiving the fees.

The report states: "In recognition of the fi-

nancial implications in waiving the fees, Welsh Government will, while the MOU remains in force, annually make available the sum of £600,000 for allocation among principal councils in Wales that have agreed with the terms of the MOU.

"The proportion of grant allocated to local authorities will be determined on the basis of the Standard Spending assessment formula. In 2018/19 the sum allocated to Powys County Council is £26,345.

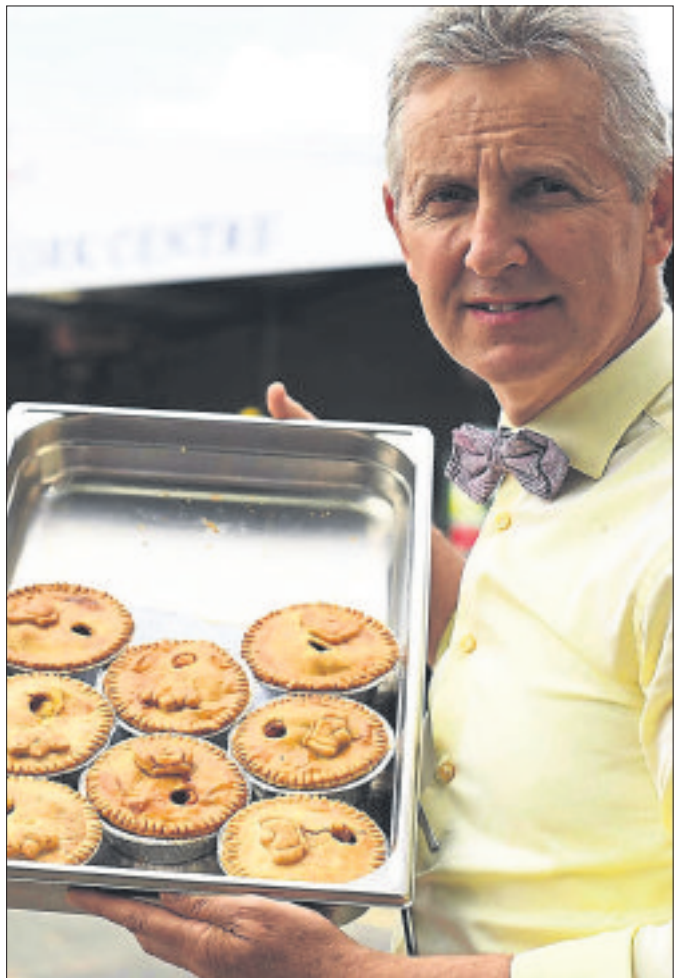
"The availability of the funding is subject to

satisfactory grant conditions being put in place.

"One such condition is that principal councils will distribute appropriate sums to other burial authorities who agree to abide by the terms of the MOU.

"The principal council may place such conditions on the provision of that funding as they consider appropriate." All town and community council have been contacted requesting that they advise whether they operate as a burial authority and if so, whether they agree to abide by the terms of the MOU."

Prison pies scheme backed



Clive Knowles with some of the pies from Berwyn Prison

AN Oswestry business has revealed the latest step in its partnership with Wrexham's Berwyn Prison.

Bosses at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston say they are supporting a "prison pies" initiative.

Clive Knowles from the centre said: "HMP Berwyn is a relatively new prison in the heart of Wrexham that aims to provide its inmates with a multitude of positive opportunities and pathways for potential growth. 'The Custodial Pie Corporation' is a wonderful pie-making initiative that began when Dylan's Restaurant Company teamed up with HMP Berwyn, in hope of providing an outlet for their inmates to showcase their cooking creativity whilst gaining valuable skills.

"Created as a way to rehabilitate prisoners in an attempt to break the reoffending cycle, the production of these pies aims to boost inmates' skills and abilities, allowing them to effectively re-integrate back

into society as fully employed members of their communities. All profits made from the pies go directly back into the scheme to help continue to run this highly rewarding programme.

"Having been so successful in their own rights, the scheme is now reaching out to forge long-term alliances with local and regional businesses in order to better showcase these tasty pies. Our help will not only aid in the sale of the pies, but will also provide the necessary encouragement for inmates to continue their hard work in the kitchen.

"Our staff here at The British Ironwork Centre have tried and tested these baked goods and are confident in stating that they are as delicious as they look. We intend to showcase these pies at multiple public events throughout the year, starting with our Proms in the Park event on September 15, where our guests and visitors can test out these pies for themselves."

Dementia put in spotlight at meeting

GEORGE Rook was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Oswestry when he gave a compelling talk about his journey with dementia.

He spoke about first noticing problems, pressing to receive a diagnosis, pursuing treatment options, finding out about patient groups and now living with dementia "as well as he can".

As chair and member of a large number of groups including the Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Dementia Action Alliance, LEAP (the Lived Experience Advisory Panel) for Dementia UK and the Shropshire and Telford Health Economy Steering Group, George makes every effort to improve the landscape of those living with dementia in the UK and in particular Shropshire his home since he settled in the county over 35 years ago.

Passionate about putting patients at the heart of everything the NHS does, George strives to influence change at both local and national levels.

His latest local project has risen out of the embryonic Oswestry and District Dementia Action Alliance (O&D DAA).

"We will be calling ourselves Dementia Friendly Oswestry and District. We have a steering group chaired by former Oswestry Town Mayor Paul Mil-

ner, and we want more people to join us and work with us." George said.

Liz Evans of Oswestry group Trailblazers, part of the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) and founder member of O&D DAA, also a guest at the meeting, underlined the aim of this new group.

She said: "My heart is to try and get as many businesses, groups and other people as possible to become dementia friendly.

"It takes just an hour to receive Dementia Friends training.

"I would encourage everyone to do it."

George concluded by inviting all rotarians to come along to the launch of the new group in early autumn when local people will be able to find out what they can do to help Oswestry become more dementia friendly.

He said: "Look out for the launch nearer the time and come along and see how businesses, schools, shops and banks can be made safer and easier to use for people with dementia.

"People affected by dementia want to be able to live well for as long as possible in their community, having the same opportunities as everyone else.

"All it takes sometimes are simple changes and for people to show a little patience and understanding.

"Do come along and see how you can help."

Architect reprimanded by board over driveway work failures

AN architect has been reprimanded and issued with a disciplinary order after he admitted unacceptable professional conduct.

Chris Hardaker, of St Martins near Oswestry, had been appointed by a homeowner to carry out works including the installation of a new driveway.

He appointed a contractor and work began.

However when issues were raised about the work nothing was done.

Then when the homeowner asked for the contractor's contract to be terminated, nothing was still done and the defects to the work were not fixed.

The homeowner reported Mr Hardaker to the Architects Registration Board.

He admitted unacceptable professional conduct by not entering into a written agreement with the client, contrary to the Architects Code. The work began in 2016, and the homeowner raised concerns after works that were supposed to take two weeks were taking six weeks.

He contacted Mr Hardaker and said he had not received any terms and conditions, and requested that the works to the driveway be completed by December 16, 2016.

In April 2017, a request was made to terminate the contrac-

tors appointment but nothing happened. More requests followed but it was still not done, and when no solution was found the homeowner terminated Mr Hardaker's contractor and referred the matter to the ARB.

A report published on the ARB website said Mr Hardaker admitted he did not provide formal terms of engagement.

Mr Hardaker said he accepted all the facts from the outset of the nine-month investigation.

He added that the reprimand is the minimum penalty given.

Mr Hardaker said he has adopted a new standard practice to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Police in summer domestic violence appeal

PEOPLE have been asked to watch out for signs of domestic abuse over the summer and report it to the police.

Throughout the summer holidays, Dyfed-Powys Police officers will be visiting campsites, tourist attractions and the night-time economy, to talk to people about domestic abuse.

They will provide guidance on the signs of domestic abuse and encourage people not to be afraid to call the police if they see or hear something that concerns them.

Efforts to raise awareness amongst the public will be supported by targeted enforcement activity holding domestic abusers to account for their actions and learning lessons from those affected.

This work is being carried out by police as part of Operation Heirloom, as reports of domestic abuse are higher during July and August in Dyfed-Powys than any other time of the year.

Superintendent Anthony Griffiths, head of the protecting vulnerable people unit, said: "Domestic abuse is not only violence. It can be physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse, threats and causing damage to property are all ways of controlling someone.

"Unfortunately, the summer holidays are a period where we see an increase in the number of reports of domestic abuse. Hot-spots include campsites, beaches, tourist attractions and bars. People may be visiting the area, or have gone for a day out or

out for the evening and for whatever reason, very often alcohol, things get out of control and someone becomes abusive.

"I urge anyone concerned about someone, whether family member, friend, neighbour or someone you've seen on holiday or a day out that needs help, to report it to police.

"As part of Operation Heirloom, our summer focus on domestic abuse, we're urging members of the public who hear or see anything that concerns them to report it to police immediately. They should not feel worried that they will be interfering if they get involved or think that it's a private matter. Your phone call or support could make a real difference."

The operation will run until the end of September.

Nephew of war poet Wilfred Owen has died

THE nephew of acclaimed Oswestry-born First World War poet Wilfred Owen has died – just days before he was due to visit Shrewsbury for the launch of an event to commemorate his uncle.

Peter Owen, who was president of the Wilfred Owen Association, had been due to appear at a ceremony at Shrewsbury Abbey to officially launch the Wilfred Owen: Last 100 Days event. An announcement on the Wilfred Owen Association's Facebook page read: "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our president, Peter Owen. Peter was a cheerful and efficacious president, and a dear friend to so many of us. Our thoughts are with his wife Elizabeth, their sons Stuart and Hamish, and all of the Owen family."

Helen McPhail, former chairwoman of the Wilfred Owen Association, said: "Peter was a remarkable man. Warm-hearted and congenial, energetic, amusing and sociable with a quick and ready humour, he was very good company – and remained fascinated by his uncle's poetry and the growing recognition of his work, particularly among young readers. His instincts were not essentially academic, but he made many friends around Wilfred Owen's literary legacy, and was always ready to talk with biographers, historians, students and the wider public."

Faster internet links given to 83k properties

A GOVERNMENT project has provided 83,000 premises in Mid Wales with access to fast-fibre broadband.

Superfast Cymru was set up by the Welsh Government to increase fast broadband, and now almost 81,000 of the premises can achieve speeds of at least 30Mbps.

Now remote areas of Wales have the highest speeds in the UK for remote areas.

Leader of the House at the Welsh Government, Julie James said the whole thing has been a big success, and the Government is proud of what it has achieved.

Miss James said: "Superfast Cymru has undoubtedly been a success and has delivered a real step change in the availability of superfast broadband across the whole country. Of all those with access in Wales over half are as a result of our intervention – that in itself shows the positive impact this programme has had.

"Whole local authority areas would have been untouched by superfast broadband rollout without Superfast Cymru – now there is not one local authority area without access. Wales has some of the highest speeds in the UK in remote areas with the use of fibre to the premises. Deploying broadband at this scale and pace in the Welsh landscape, particularly rural areas, has proved extremely challenging."

Musical director has stepped down

LLANGOLLEN International Musical Eisteddfod's musical director is leaving after one year at the helm.

Vicky Yannoula took over from Eilir Owen Griffiths in September.

The concert pianist was the festival's eighth music director.

A statement from the Eisteddfod said: "We can confirm that Vicky Yannoula's tenure as our music director has now ended.

"We would like to thank Vicky for her energy and enthusiasm and for bringing a refreshing change of artistic emphasis to the Eisteddfod.

"The artistic success of the 2018 Eisteddfod has highlighted the skills and talents of the staff and volunteers that support our organisation and moving forward we will be looking into developing the music director role into a more strategic leadership position. This review will ensure that we continue to grow and develop our offering.

"We're looking forward to announcing our latest developments and will keep our community up to date with this news." This year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod once again attracted thousands of visitors to the area with Van Morrison and Alfie Boe being among the star names performing.

Plans for 112-seater cinema axed

PLANS to open a 112-seater cinema in Oswestry have been scrapped due to funding applications being rejected.

Trevor Harris, who ran the Regal Cinema in Oswestry for decades, was granted planning permission for a cinema at a former church in The Citadel in King Street in December.

He had submitted funding requests to Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council. However those pleas were rejected, and he has scrapped the plans.

He has put £5,000 into the scheme to carry out studies and appoint an agent and sold off his posters to raise the money.

He said: "We've scrapped the idea, it won't be happening and a cinema like this won't come to the town for many years."

"We asked for grant funding from Shropshire and Oswestry council, but they said no."

"We had planning permission, and I had sold my posters and other things to carry out studies to make sure the building was ready."

"Now we have had to scrap the plans."

Oswestry does have a cinema thanks to the Kinokulture organisation.

Kinokulture runs films at its premises in Oswestry throughout the week.

Cineworld was set to build a cinema in Oswestry as part of the Smithfield development on Shrewsbury Road, but it pulled out of the plans.

Plans for that land have been re-submitted, but do not include a cinema.

Go-ahead is given for new waste facility

AN application to build a new waste recycling facility and a business park has been passed.

Locals put in a number of objections to the development near to the A483 in Abermule, however Powys County Council's planning committee passed the application. The full application was for the waste facility and the application was for outline planning for the business park.

Locals were unhappy the land was going to be used as a waste facility, and expressed concerns on noise disturbance, smell issues and the impact it will have on businesses.

After approval was given, Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for highways, recycling and assets, said: "As part of our vision for Powys, we want to be an open and enterprising council that actively promotes and supports a vibrant economy. This decision will allow us to develop this well-located site so that we can provide opportunities for existing businesses to expand and attract new enterprises to the county."

Bus route saved by coach company

A POPULAR bus route which was at risk of being lost has been saved by a coach company.

Lakeside Coaches has had its application to the Traffic Commissioner accepted to take over the Ellesmere to Oswestry service.

The 449 is a direct bus service between the two towns, via Whittington.

It has been run by Tanat Valley Coaches for the last 40 years but the company lost out on a contract connected with the service. Gareth Davies, director of Lakeside Coaches, said: "We're very pleased to announce that we have been granted permission to run the service. It normally takes eight weeks to register a service but we were able to do it in three because we had the support of the local MP, Owen Paterson, and the transport unit at Shropshire Council. We have also had lots of support from the public. We announced it on Facebook and it got 8,500 views, and there were lots of nice comments and feedback too."

Picture focus



Oscar Digby, aged four, and sister Alice, aged six, from Whitchurch meet the daleks



Ian Wardrobe dressed as Bughuul from the film Sinister



The film and comic convention was held at Oswestry Leisure Centre

Festival attracts weird and wonderful characters

Report by Sue Austin

THE characters of film and comic books were the stars of a new festival for Oswestry.

OzconUK saw visitors arrive in a host of weird and wonderful costumes, to the amazement of others at the venue, the town's leisure centre.

From Darth Vader to Daleks and cult characters across the decades, there were characters from every genre, children's comics to horror movies.

A Ghostbusters stand proved the main draw for three year old George Kinnell from Weston Rhyn who although dressed as Darth Vader was proudly clutching a pot of Ghostbuster slime.

His father, Andy, said: "It's great to have something like this held in Oswestry rather than having to travel."

"George just loves Ghostbusters." Sian Jones and her daughter, five-year-old Lily were also having a good time.

Movie

Lily dressed as a character from the hit movie Frozen.

For 23-year-old Patrick Falat from Shrewsbury, it was his second chance to done his Trafalgar Law costume, a character from One Piece.

"I was at a convention in Manchester recently so it's great to have something like this in Shropshire," he said.

"It's good fun."

Turning back the clock was Paul Jones who had driven his Knight Rider replica car to Oswestry from The Wirral.

"It attracts all the generations."

"Knight Rider is currently being shown on television introducing younger people to the series," he said.

"I was escorted home the other day by two police patrol cars."

"I thought something was wrong, but when we stopped they just wanted selfies with the car."

OzconUK organiser, Martin Proudlock, an Oswestry businessman, said that he hoped the weekend could become an annual event.

"We need the support of the public and the wonderful people who go to such trouble to dress up to ensure we can stage it again," he said.

He thanked the Cosplay judges, 'Oddsocks' and 'Tooth Fairy' for travelling to Oswestry on Saturday.



Jade Wade and Aimee Swift at the event



Angela Burslem as Ursula from Little Mermaid



Liam Dulson as the Joker and Danielle Hughes as Harlequin, from Oswestry



Elliot Dovey, aged nine, from Shrewsbury

Highly attractive detached house is in excellent location

A highly attractive and well designed five-bedroomed modern detached house, 32 Bentley Drive, Oswestry is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £375,000 with no chain.

In an excellent location with an attractive outlook, this house is close to the town centre. Two of the bedrooms are en-suite and there are family bathrooms on the first and second floors, as well as a guest WC on the ground floor. Add to this a lounge with French doors leading out to the appealing garden and a fitted kitchen with appliances and a utility. In more detail the entrance hall has wood-effect flooring and a built-in cupboard. The lounge has a bay window to the front, French doors to the rear garden and a gas fire set in a period-style surround. The dining room has a bay window to the front and ceiling coving. The cloakroom/WC has a white suite. Having an attractive range of wall and base cupboards with dark wood surfaces and tiled splash backs, the breakfast kitchen has a built-in four ring gas hob with a hood above and a recently replaced double oven/grill below. There is also a built-in dishwasher and fridge/freezer, sink, tiled flooring, a bay window with an outlook over the rear and space for a breakfast table. The utility room has matching cupboards with a second sink, appliance space and a wall mounted boiler, tiled flooring and an exit door.

On the first floor is the master bedroom with a range of built-in bedroom furniture with an en-suite bathroom with a bath, WC, hand basin set in a vanity unit, a bidet and tiled shower cubicle with a glass screen and mains pressure shower. Guest bedroom two has a range of built-in wardrobes and an en-suite with a WC, wash hand basin, a tiled shower cubicle with a glass screen. Bedroom three is currently used as a study and there is a family bathroom with a white suite including a bath, WC and wash hand basin.

On the second floor is bedroom four (currently used as a second sitting room) and bedroom five with storage space. The double garage has twin up and over doors, light and power points and parking to front. There is useful additional space as the garage widens to the rear.

KEY FEATURES

Modern detached house

Five bedrooms

Two en-suites/two bathrooms/guest WC

Excellent location

Attractive outlook

OSWESTRY £375,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Morris Marshall & Poole

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17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space



with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Duncan Scobie of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views over valley

LLANRHAeadR
£400,000 >>>

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000.

The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 for more details about the home or to arrange a viewing.



Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH
£374,950 <<<

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.

Home occupies quiet elevated cul-de-sac position in village

PANT £350,000 >>>

Occupying a quiet elevated cul-de-sac position within the village of Pant near Oswestry, 3 Edwards Close is convenient for local facilities such as modern primary school, post office and shop, pub and renowned golf club .

3 Edwards Close is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £350,000.

The home is an individually designed detached four bedroomed house.

The property has a spacious entrance hall, living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility and cloakroom. The master bedroom is ensuite and there are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property has a double garage and ample parking.

There are gardens to the front and a patio and garden to the rear.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437.



Town centre house has an abundance of superb features

OSWESTRY £425,000

Appeal exudes from this charming Grade II listed house in Oswestry town centre.

This flexi four or six bedroom home, with or without a self-contained flat, has an abundance of features.

The entrance hall of Ty Gwyn, 57 Willow Street, opens to a sitting room and library.

These are two of the three reception rooms, each with feature fireplace.

The sitting room with open timber frame reveals the staircase behind.

To the rear of the house are the open plan kitchen and living room, with French doors to the garden.

Ground floor accommodation also provides a utility, conservatory and wc.

Ascend to the first floor where there are three/four bedrooms with three en-suites.



True decadence is to be found in the master bedroom which enjoys its own roof terrace.

Rise again and currently the second floor is configured as a self-contained flat.

However, this could be reinstated to two separate rooms should the purchaser wish.

Agent Charlie Giffard adds: "This is a gem for anyone seeking a town house, which even accommodates garage and parking."

Ty Gwyn, is marketed with a guide price of £425,000 by Balfours.

For more information about the property people can call Balfours on 01743 353511.



Detached Victorian period family home has large garden

OSWESTRY £450,000 <<<

A detached Victorian period family home, Leeswood in Morda Road, Oswestry lies in a popular location within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Coming with a large garden including a former tennis court, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £450,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hallway, lounge, morning room, sun room, dining room, cloakroom/shower room, five bedrooms, two being en-suite, an impressive main bathroom, three spacious reception rooms, a hand made kitchen and utility room, a driveway, detached garage and gardens.

In more detail the entrance hallway has a herringbone woodblock floor, panelled walls and a traditional spindled staircase.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details and to arrange a viewing.



Sheep death sparks police dog warning

POLICE have warned dog owners to keep their pets under control after a sheep was mauled to death at a beauty spot.

The pet sheep that was kept in a field next to the Racecourse above Oswestry was found dead on Monday morning last week.

Officers say the animal had been attacked by an unknown dog. The area is popular with dog walkers.

Inspector Tracy Ryan said that police sometimes received calls from farmers, landowners and members of the public reporting farm animals being chased by dogs.

She said: "Sheep can be savaged and either killed by dogs or may have to be put down by a veterinary surgeon.

"The impact this can have on a rural business can be devastating. Not only does the farmer incur expensive veterinary costs but for pregnant ewes there is the risk of aborting their unborn lambs.

"This can incur further veterinary expense and the loss of income from a depleted flock.

"If a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land, the owner of the dog, and, if it is in the charge of a person other than the owner, that person also, shall be guilty of an offence under this act."

This legislation does not apply to a dog owned by or in charge of the occupier of the field or enclosure or the owner of the sheep or a person authorised by either of those persons. Neither does it apply to a police dog, a guide dog, trained sheep dog, a working gun dog or a pack of hounds.

Pubs are still shutting down figures reveal

SIXTY pubs have closed their doors across Shropshire in seven years, according to new figures.

Data from the Office of National Statistics show that the number of pubs in the county has fallen from 390 in 2010 to 330 last year, a fall of 15 per cent. Worst hit was Telford & Wrekin, which lost 35 pubs, a decline of 25 per cent. Neighbouring Powys also suffered, with 25 pubs closing, a fall of 13 per cent. Paul Jones, of the Campaign for Real Ale in Telford and Shropshire, said the figures were disappointing. "We always try to fight pub closures, but with many of them it is an uphill battle," he says.

Across the UK 5,745 pubs closed over the period, and there are 54 local authorities where 30 or more shut.

Pubs have been blaming the taxman for their troubles, complaining about the duty on beer, VAT levels and the cost of business rates. Britain's Beer Alliance, a group of organisations in the pub and brewing sector, has started a campaign called Long Live the Local with a petition.

Majority happy with collections

MORE than nine out of 10 households in Shropshire are happy with their kerbside waste collections according to figures.

And a further 88 per cent said they are satisfied with their recycling collection service. A waste satisfaction survey was carried out in March and April by Veolia, who provide waste and recycling services on behalf of Shropshire Council. A sample of 5,000 households were invited to complete the survey, and say what they think of the refuse and recycling services they receive. Of the 5,000 surveys distributed, 1,333 responses were received – a response rate of 26.6 per cent. In relation to kerbside recycling service, the survey found that 92 per cent of households were happy with the collection of their waste and 91 per cent found the information about recycling helpful. In addition, in relation to the county's household recycling centres, 88 per cent were pleased with the location of the site, 92 per cent said the recycling centre was clean and 90 per cent were happy with opening hours.

Picture focus



Annie Armstrong, 14, Abe Armstrong, 18, both of London, and Julia Armstrong, of Oswestry



There were plenty of competitions to take part in at Oswestry Show



Thousands of people flocked to Oswestry Show to enjoy the annual event

Thousands flock to enjoy town's annual extravaganza

Report by Sue Austin

THOUSANDS of people poured into Oswestry Show to see what the very best of British farming has to offer.

From the champion livestock and spectacular horses to the food that the agricultural community produces, the showground at Park Hall on the edge of the town was a shop window for farmers.

Perfect weather drew the crowds keen to watch the main ring attractions, see the animals and browse the trade stalls. President Neil Brogden said it was wonderful to see such big crowds. "The weather is on our side, it brings people out," he said. "It is a great atmosphere. Because we can't expand our site, we have to make the most of the showground and that makes for a busy, full show. People come along to see everything we have here and also to meet up with friends, it is a great social event."

The arable farmer for Sandford, West Felton said: "Our continued success is down to the fact that we have remained a farming show. The livestock competitions, horses, horticulture, they come first along with our grand parade.

Pageant

"This year we also have a special pageant that looks at the history of the potato over the years and how farming the crop has changed. It is really important that people can come to an event like this and see for themselves where their food comes from. After that we look at what else we can bring to the show and I believe that there really is something for everyone."

The president praised the scores of volunteers who give up hundreds of hours to put the event on.

"Our volunteers are a huge part of our success," he said.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, attending with his wife Rose, said there seemed to be more people than ever attending the show. "We were here early and people were streaming in. By midday the showground was heaving," he said.

"Oswestry Show is firmly in our diary, we have only missed one in 21 years. It is an excellent event stage by a strong band of volunteers." Mr Paterson said it was good to have local winners in the livestock classes and said the show was a chance to speak to the local farming community.



Classic tractors were on show at the event



Guy Mumford of Much Wenlock with his Highland cattle



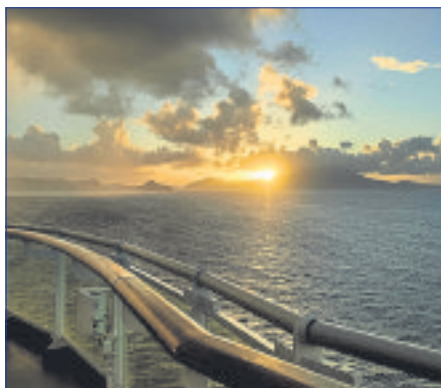
There was fun for people of all ages



There were all sorts of attractions to enjoy at the show



There's something for everyone on P&O's Britannia



A view of Martinique from Britannia



On the beach in Barbados, our last stop on a week-long visit

A Caribbean dream aboard the Britannia

ON HOLIDAY

Review by Caroline Jones

IT'S now August and the sun has been kind to us of late.

But before we can blink it will be a different story and we'll be wrapped up in our winter coats longing to be outside with a large gin and tonic in our hands, having fun with friends and catching some rays...

Earlier this year the dreaded but inevitable January blues had well and truly kicked in. I was tired, fed up, stressed at work and above all, cold!

While the temperatures plummeted into minus figures with what seemed to be no end in sight, I remained upbeat. Slightly smug even. While everyone around me was battling the blues with no hope of a single ray of sunshine for months ahead, I was about to head off on the trip of a lifetime. One of my lifelong dreams was about to come true and I couldn't wait.

I had always dreamt of visiting the Caribbean – I dreamt of sipping cocktails on a sunbed surrounded by clean, white sand, then swimming in crystal clear warm blue sea, eating fresh coconuts on the beach, all while feeling a whole world away from the stress and strains of everyday life.

My trip certainly didn't disappoint.

Fantastic

As I boarded the TUI flight from Gatwick I was experiencing a range of emotions. Mainly I was excited, but as a first-time cruiser I was also nervous, scared and not sure what to expect.

Putting my nerves and fears aside I vowed to enjoy every minute of my trip, including the seven-hour flight to St Lucia.

The chartered flight out set the tone for our holiday – it was fantastic. Good food, attentive staff and plenty to keep us entertained on our personal screens.

With the sun beating down on our pale skin as we got off the plane on the beautiful island of St Lucia, we both spared a thought for our friends and families in below freezing temperatures. It was only brief, but it's the thought that counts.

A short bus ride away our palace for the next week awaited us – Britannia, P&O's flagship hotel on water.

Our balcony cabin was a real home from home with everything we could have possibly wanted or needed right there at our fingertips. With our cases having been delivered directly to our cabin, we quickly unpacked and settled into our new surroundings.

There really is so much to enjoy on board Britannia that it's difficult to know where to begin. No matter what your age, interests, hobbies, food and drink tastes, your idea of relaxation or family circumstances there really is something for everyone to enjoy. As a first-time cruiser, I really need to make the point that anyone who is scared of what to expect needn't be. You really can't go wrong.



A view of Antigua. The island is said to boast 365 beaches.

I have to admit that most of our time on board was spent at the aptly-named Serenity pool sipping several cocktails of the day – despite our best but admittedly highly unlikely intentions to go to the many exercise classes on offer on Britannia. When we ventured away from the sunbeds, we made the most of the on-board shopping and entertainment.

Being a huge lover of food but not so keen on the actual cooking of it, I was apprehensive about the on-board Cookery Club class we had signed up to. But chef John McManus and his team put me at ease straight away and after a demonstration from John we were sent away to our individual stations to crack on with our cooking.

After an afternoon spent with John and co at the Island Roots class, learning the cooking techniques and mastering the spice mix behind some of the islands' most exciting dishes and without any major disasters (that I was aware of), I am now the proud cook of jerk chicken and rice followed by caramelised rum and coconut bananas.

This was probably the first (and to date,

last) time I have ever enjoyed eating anything cooked by my own fair hands. A generous helping of main and dessert later and I wished I'd got to those exercise classes after all!

Stepping off Britannia, our whistle-stop tour of the islands took us to some beautiful places.

With a wide range of excursions to enjoy at each island stop – these can be arranged ahead of your trip or with staff on board – there is something to suit everyone.

Having enjoyed leisurely strolls around the glorious St Lucia and Grenada, followed by a day at sea, we were ready to fully explore our next stop – St Kitts.

A trip aboard the St Kitts Railway was on the agenda for the day. But this was no ordinary train trip – my regular train trip from Wrexham to Shrewsbury has seemed rather boring ever since.

As we trundled along the track with the sun beating down on us, the strong rum cocktails were passed down the carriage as we were entertained by the on-board choir.

The cocktails flowed as we enjoyed the

beautiful scenery from the open-sided double-decker train and listened to our guide's talk on the history of the island. A truly memorable afternoon.

Without doubt my favourite stop was Antigua. It was love at first sight as I walked away from Britannia into my new favourite place in the world. The island is said to boast 365 beaches. However, I set foot on a poor total of three!

Our organised Segway tour of the island ensured we covered as much ground as possible. With the sun kissing our skin, our headsets on listening to the informative talk from our tour guide, we happily sped along taking in as much of Antigua's beauty as possible.

White sand. Tick. Clear blue sea. Tick. Cocktails on the beach. Tick. Eating fresh coconuts on the sand. Tick. The dream had come true and I couldn't have been happier.

A truly beautiful place and one I aim to return to very soon.

We explored Martinique on foot, visiting a bar, cafe and market, chatting to locals and shopping for local crafts and produce. The heavens opened with a brief but welcome rain shower as we sipped on our beers, safely sheltered under a large umbrella.

Barbados was the last stop on our week-long break – an overnight stop.

Exploring on foot we found a lovely quiet spot with sunbeds, where we remained for the rest of the day. Despite the dramatic (for Julie) and amusing (for me) moment when a centipede crawled into Julie's beach bag, the day, the people, the surroundings made for the perfect day.

Well, back on-board the lovely Britannia. Anyone who knows me knows how much I like food and red wine. And gin. And cocktails. And.... Well you get the picture.

Delightful

With more than 3,000 people on board, the chefs really have their work cut out – but they didn't fail to impress. From the buffet restaurant to the allocated Freedom Dining restaurant to the cover charge restaurants, every bit of food was top notch.

We wanted to try every experience while on board so we sampled the food in each restaurant. I'll start with Sindhu. Well, what can I say.

Michelin-star chef Atul Kocchhar's Sindhu restaurant was a delightful experience – and by far my favourite meal of the week.

The elegant Epicurean restaurant saw me tuck into a wild mushroom and champagne veloute, followed by a 28-day dry aged beef sirloin and a baked rice pudding arancini with a melting maple syrup centre and almond crumb. Heaven.

The Limelight Club dinner on our final evening on board was a delight – made even more special by another delightful meal as well as entertainment from the lovely Dean Andrews of Ashes to Ashes fame.

A week of making dreams come true, making memories, making new friends, eating so much delightful food that I'm amazed I could fit in my seat on the flight home.

I would recommend a trip on Britannia to any first-time or experienced cruiser. Go for it. Trust me, she won't disappoint.

Make Great Escape to 'God's own country'

Review by Bill McCarthy

THEY say, well they do in Yorkshire, that it's God's Own Country.

Many other parts of the UK would dispute that, but it's clear the White Rose county has a rich tapestry of gently sloping wolds, delightful dales, quaint villages and the stunning moorlands so vividly displayed in TV's Heartbeat.

Not to mention picturesque seaside towns like Whitby, Filey, Bridlington and Scarborough – and plenty of pubs and wildlife.

A lot to take in what is a huge county so a touring holiday gives the freedom to pick and choose various campsites that each offer something a little bit different.

We chose a motorhome. It has been a few years since that last adventure when we hired a vehicle from one of the many rental sites.

But now a big fish has entered the market. Swift has set up its own bespoke rental service, operating initially from a swish new base in Stockport, which has dozens of different motorhomes to choose from and which is convenient for the motorway network.

The firm, based in Yorkshire, plans another six depots countrywide by 2022.

Our four-berth Escape is a compact brand new vehicle, ingeniously designed, as they have to be, to give the comforts of home living in a relatively tiny space.

So we loaded up and set off on a tour which took in North Yorkshire and eventually north Derbyshire.

Our destinations were Caravan and Motorhome Club sites, or sites affiliated to the group.

The club has more than 200 club sites and 2,500 privately owned places to stay in the UK and more than 300 sites across Europe.

Our first port of call was Wharfedale, near Skipton in North Yorkshire. This is one of the top sites with a peaceful atmosphere and excellent facilities including a pristine shower block and a pub nearby to slake your thirst after a long walk in the stunning countryside.

The next site couldn't be more different. A couple of miles up the road from Whitby at Sneaton, it is on a working farm, offering limited facilities but a spectacular view over Whitby bay.

There are only a few hard standing pitches but water and waste disposal is available. It is peaceful and secluded and the sheep are never far away. For essentials a pub and farm shop are nearby.

Lack of facilities is not a problem as the Escape is fully equipped with toilet and

shower facilities, hob, oven, microwave, fridge and toaster, plus all the pots and pans to go with it.

Hook up to the electrics and off you go. Otherwise a gas supply and leisure battery will provide power.

The motorhome has a sturdy and ingenious fold away table and chairs and if the weather is kind, like it was for us, you take your meals al fresco.

So relax, fold out the integral awning and settle down with a Merlot or two and start counting the sheep.

If you like peace and quiet and a friendly welcome this fits the bill.

A trip in Whitby is a must to try the famous fish and chips or a special shout out to The Plough a traditional pub that sells a pint for £1.40 and cost us £4 for two lagers. Whitby is also hosts the famous North Yorkshire Moors Railway (pictured top).

This railway, which has recently featured on Channel 5 and runs to Pickering, with various stops along the way.

If you are a Heartbeat fan, then stop off at Goathland, home of the Aidsfield and, sorry to labour the pub angle, the Aidsfield Arms, which packs in the visitors. It is a beautiful journey through the moorlands and steam enthusiasts or not, people love it.

Filey is just about 40 minutes down the road and weary travellers can stop off at another affiliated site. The Honeyot Inn offers a small number of pitches with electric and toilet facilities on a field with a view towards the seaside resort.

Our final destination took us back inland to the imposing and sprawling Chatsworth House estate in Derbyshire.



Multi-million pound plant to open in New Year

A NEW multi-million factory for plastics manufacturer Craemer is set to become fully operational in January.

The German wheelie bins manufacturer, which makes products for half of all the UK's local authorities, is building a new factory on Hortonwood West to add to its existing Hortonwood site nearby.

The company already employs about 65 people in Telford, and the new facility will create new jobs.

The factory will be in addition to its current site, and will allow the company to introduce new larger machinery as it diversifies its products.

An update on the progress of the new factory was given at an event hosted by Craemer earlier this month.

Local authorities came to the Telford site and listened to key speakers on current topics within the waste and recycling industry.

Keegan Smith, who gave visitors a tour of the new facility, said: "We are about five months away from being fully operational on our second site, which is about half a mile down the road."

"When we start it will give us another 50 per cent more production capacity over what we have already got here."

"The layout and size of the machines going in there will maybe enable us to develop new products for the future as well as add more production lines for our existing products. The existing site was completed in 2006. When I joined nine years ago we only had three machines so in my time here I have seen it grow and grow, and we have reached a point where capacity is full. I can't wait for Site B."

Craemer has expanded at its Telford site in the last 10 years, and has grown its share of the UK wheelie bin market from five to 45 per cent over that time. It turns out one million of the roadside bins from its Telford factory a year.

Clive Hames, company secretary, added: "The UK market is still blossoming and we are very efficient in how we make our wheelie bins. We can potentially supply to any local authority. We can adapt to customer requirements very quickly."

500 jobs in the UK to be axed by E.ON

E.ON is to cut around 500 jobs across its UK operations as it faces growing competition, the energy firm has announced.

The firm, which employs 9,400 in this country, said the UK energy market continues to change at an "unprecedented rate".

The company said the energy market remains an "increasingly competitive" environment.

E.ON said it is looking to reduce numbers across non-customer facing departments as part of ongoing efforts to improve efficiency.

Chief executive Michael Lewis said: "We're always looking to make sure we're equipped to respond to the rapid pace and challenges of the UK energy market and we know we can never stand still if we are to continue giving customers a high-quality and cost-effective service."

"We've undertaken a rigorous review of our options to ensure we keep costs as low as possible, become a more agile organisation and remain a sustainable business in the UK."

"In discussion with trade unions we've identified potential reductions of around 500 roles across the UK and we're committed to achieving these reductions on a voluntary basis wherever possible."

"This is one element of our ongoing transformation which, in total, will help us achieve savings of around £100 million across our mid-term plan."

The firm's chief executive added: "I'm very aware this will be a difficult time for our colleagues but our aim has always been to keep uncertainty to a minimum and I can assure everyone affected that we'll be as supportive as we can."

E.ON said it was not yet possible to say exactly how many workers at individual sites or specific business areas will be affected by the proposed cuts in its operation.

The energy firm has said that it will continue to innovate.

NEC unveils £4.5 million new look



Artist impression of transformation of the NEC

THE NEC has unveiled details of a £4.5 million project that is aimed at completely transforming the look and feel of the Birmingham exhibition and events venue.

The first phase of the three-year project – work on the outside of Halls 1 and 5 – started last month and is set to be completed in late August.

Kathryn James, managing director for NEC group conventions and exhibitions, said: "We have seen our NEC campus change radically over the past three years."

"We began our journey as an exhibition venue, and are now a thriving 24/7 business and leisure destination. We are attracting more and more visitors each year as the amazing content hosted by our exhibitions, conferences, live events and

attractions – both on campus and within the NEC – develops."

The NEC campus now attracts more than seven million visitors annually to the NEC, Genting Arena, Vox conference centre and Resorts World Birmingham. This number is set to grow as the site's first permanent attraction – The Bear Grylls Adventure – opens this autumn.

Kathryn added: "We have a rich heritage of over 40 years, but, whilst the services we deliver have evolved, the exterior of the venue has stayed the same. This transformation that we fondly call Project Facelift, will give the venue a modern and impactful look which is a great fit with the exciting developments on campus – happening right now and in the future."

The new design will see 37 translucent pyramid structures – created by architects Acivico – that can be backlit to create a visual effect.

Sandwiched between the pyramids are a series of colour panels designed by global agency McCann. The project is being managed by CBRE with Base Structures, Ultimate Coatings and roof and cladding business SPV Group.

Kathryn said: "This project is a solid example of how we take on board feedback from our visitors, exhibitors and organisers to find out what can make their customer experience even better. As the NEC campus continues to grow, this investment is an integral part of our wider master plan."

Birthday present leads to business venture

BUSINESS LATEST

By James Pugh

IT started out when Lucy Phillips designed a present for her partner's nan's 70th birthday...

More than six months on Lucy's venture, which sees her make unique garden ornaments, has taken off and she has already experienced award success.

Lucy, who runs Nature in Steel from Bucknell with her partner Alan, won gold awards at The Royal Bath and West Show, where she was awarded The Godfrey Lipscomb Trophy and a gold for having the best exhibit in the Woodland and Countryside Conservation area.

She said: "I have always had a dream to say farewell to the nine to five office job and do something a little bit different."

"My partner is an inventor and takes pride and enjoyment in solving problems, especially when relating to agriculture. His business, Farming Solutions Limited, has been growing steadily and after a three-month stint in New Zealand sheep shearing, he has come back to push his new inventions."

Thriving

"He now lives on his family farm in Shropshire which is three hours away, and as a means to get my bags packed and move me up to the farm and workshop to be with him, we decided to start a business together to complement his already thriving business."

"The idea arose in November 2017 when Alan, already knowing that I had an artistic eye, asked me if I could design an owl made from steel for his nan's 70th birthday. After much thought, designing and experimenting with laser cutting metal and hand finishing techniques the owl was born and Alan's nan was delighted."

Lucy said from then on people have been asking for other designs for their gardens and for presents. "I started designing more animals to include hares, pheasants, foxes, rabbits and the list goes on. We thought, why not give selling a try and produce unique hand finished garden ornaments that are designed with love and made in the UK. Seeing as this new venture only began in November 2017, after lots of hard work and determination we are now selling over the internet."



Lucy Phillips, of south Shropshire-based Nature in Steel, with one of her garden ornaments

Sam to help deliver £1m of business from Second City base



Sam Hufton and Nick Lovett

A DIGITAL marketing specialist has been appointed to lead the expansion of M3, with the aim of delivering £1 million of new business.

Sam Hufton, former commercial director of Rice Media, has joined the Albrighton-based full service advertising agency to lead its move into Birmingham.

The new operations director will initially be responsible for a team of five and has been given the task of establishing the company as an alternative to the city's existing marketing community, offering clients the chance to

increase sales and drive brand reputation.

He will also be responsible for the continued execution of the £500,000 Solmar Villas campaign, which is already delivering a 35 per cent increase in sales and record visitor numbers to the website.

"This is a very exciting time to be joining M3, with the rebrand proving very popular with new and existing clients and ambitious plans to create a Birmingham presence that can generate £1 million of new fees in the first 12 months," said Sam, who in his previous roles has been responsible for managing Aston Villa, National Geographic and 'Hardly Ever Worn

It' accounts. There is no better time to be moving into the second city. Extensive investment in Paradise Circus and the imminent roll-out of HS2 has generated a fantastic vibe and means we have a great opportunity to attract both high profile work that usually favours London."

He added: "We've invested about £120,000 in creating two new jobs and scouring the city for the perfect environment."

M3 offers brand development, creative, digital marketing, media planning and web development services to a national client base that features West Midlands Safari Park, Wasps and Formula One Autocentres.



The Secret Garden in the grounds



The Oxwich Bay Hotel is a cosy seaside hotel



The decor is smart and modern

An oasis of calm in secret Gower garden

ON HOLIDAY

Review by Peter Carroll

BEAUTIFUL Gower in South Wales is the oldest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Britain and usually one of our family's favourite destinations for a short break. . .

But this time I sensed a certain reluctance from my other half after broaching the topic of a weekend break with friends at Oxwich Bay, on the south coast of the peninsula. Not even my carefully considered use of the term "glamping" could win her round.

"You've got another thing coming if you think I am going camping," said my wife bluntly, the scars of roughing it at Glastonbury before we were wed still evident.

Then her mood seemed to lighten.

Once she had viewed the accommodation online and satisfied herself that we would not actually be under canvas, she relented. "It actually looks really nice," she said.

And so it proved. The Secret Garden, in the grounds of the Oxwich Bay Hotel, is a small development of luxury detached cabins, or "S-pods" as they are called, which are hidden from public view by fencing and vegetation.

You enter through a wooden gate and it really does seem a world apart inside the "garden". The pods, made by Yorkshire-based Swift Group, are about 15ft by 10ft, meaning they are cosy but not cramped. The decor is modern and they have large windows with tinted glass.

Sun-trap

There are double beds which drop down from the wall.

Every pod has its own terrace with chairs and table and ours proved a real sun-trap in the mornings. At night they are subtly lit with coloured lamps. Other than the showers being a little tight for those of more ample girth, we could find little fault with the accommodation on offer and it is reasonably priced too.

The hotel itself occupies a prominent spot at the western edge of one of the finest, most family-friendly beaches in Wales. Originally a vicarage, the property was purchased in 1959 and has remained in family ownership ever since.

You can be on the beach within seconds. There's a range of watersports and boat trips on offer or you can just enjoy pottering along the sand, which stretches for some two and a half miles. For us the most magical time was early in the morning before the day-trippers started arriving. Apart from a couple of local dog walkers we had the beach to ourselves.

Due to the concept of the Secret Garden, none of the pods benefit from sea views, but these can be had from the main hotel building which is right next door.

In the hotel itself you can eat either in the upmarket Chestnut Room, or the main res-



The hotel occupies a prominent spot at the edge of one of the most family-friendly beaches in Wales

taurant/bar. These surroundings are humbler but do benefit from stunning views across the bay.

The menu offers "traditional favourites" like a burger or curry for £11 to £15, but we tended to opt for chef specials like oven baked sea bream in lemon, parsley and parmesan crust, as they were only slightly dearer. This is worth bearing in mind if you opt for the half-board tariff as it includes a voucher of £25 per person towards dinner.

From the hotel it is an easy stroll to one of the Gower's main historical sites: Oxwich Castle. The ruin – less a castle and more a Tudor mansion – sits on a wooded headland overlooking the bay. Though not that much of the building has survived, it is clear the castle would have been a sumptuous property in its day.

Historic

Another historic site worth a visit is Weobley Castle, a short drive away on the north coast of the Gower. Again it is largely a ruin but does enjoy a fantastic location overlooking the Loughor Estuary.

Near Weobley, in the village of Llanrhidian, we found a couple of pubs. The Greyhound is a microbrewery which serves its own ales but we ended up at the Dolphin, tucked away in the heart of the village. It was a lovely evening and we enjoyed the distant views of the estuary from the beer garden.

This was one of the few times we used our vehicles. For the most part we left them at the hotel as we wanted to make

the most of the many walks on the Gower.

The first of these saw us step out on a scenic circular route taking us west towards Horton before we turned south and picked up the Gower Coast Path. This led across the top of a cliff to Oxwich Point and then back to the hotel through woodland. A more challenging route heads east along Oxwich Bay and round the promontory to beautiful Three Cliffs Bay. There is a cafe at Southgate nearby and you can walk back over the dunes for a bit of variety.

There are lovely walking routes all round the Gower coast or you can try the 35-mile Gower Way which was mapped out to mark the Millennium.

If the weather is less than clement you could do worse than visit the Gower Heritage Centre at Parkmill. This is a surprisingly large complex of buildings offering a range of quirky attractions, mostly aimed at children.

There has been a working mill on site since the 12th century and a guided tour is a must, especially for those with an interest in engineering, as you will get a real sense of the history of the site.

There was just time for one last walk on the beach before leaving the Gower. We had visited out of season when it was relatively quiet, but it's worth pointing out that Oxwich Bay can get very busy during the school holidays and on bank holidays.

But no matter how many people are crammed on to the beach you will be in an oasis of calm inside the Secret Garden – and snug as two peas in an S-pod.

Enjoy this getaway

- Oxwich Bay Hotel – This cosy seaside hotel has a range of comfortable accommodation. There's an all-day restaurant serving Welsh cuisine and formal afternoon tea. Other amenities include a traditional bar and a lounge, and the stunning Chestnut Room.
- Price per night for a contemporary double room in the Secret Garden, to include dinner, bed and breakfast for two – from £129. For the same package, it is from £99 for single occupancy. Visit www.oxwichbayhotel.co.uk
- Swift Group based in Cottingham, East Yorkshire, manufactures the S-pod accommodation located in the Secret Garden. For more information about Swift Group's range of caravans, motorhomes, pods and holiday homes, visit www.swiftgroup.co.uk
- For more details on visitor attractions see www.visitwales.com

Beautiful Rhodes leads to a great break



Review by Bill McCarthy

THE beautiful island of Rhodes is famous for a number of things among them the Colossus of Rhodes, a statue of the Greek sun-god Helios, erected in 280 BC and, ahem, Anthony Quinn.

Why Anthony Quinn? Well, he was one of the stars of the blockbuster *Guns of Navarone*, which was partly filmed on the island.

The Colossus has long gone, but Anthony left a lasting legacy.

He so loved the island he bought some land with a fabulous beach and it became Anthony Quinn Bay, near Falaraki.

It's not the only fabulous beach. Rhodes is the largest and most popular island of Dodecanese. With 300 days of sunshine, it offers plenty of choice for holiday-makers and a famous medieval old town which is an absolute must for a visit.

Our first visit to the Greek islands for us was to the huge Aldemar Resort in Kalithea, not far from the capital, which includes the impressively located Amilia Mare hotel and Paradise Village.

We stayed in the main hotel complex on a fully inclusive basis. The well-equipped rooms offer either garden or sea view, with ours, the latter, offering a spectacular vista across the Mediterranean. The rooms are comfortable and spacious with modern bathroom, TV, fridge and free wi-fi.

Peckish

The hotel itself is huge with a number of bars, inside and out and a choice of restaurants serving food and drink throughout the day and if you are still peckish late on, a sandwich supper is laid on.

There is a choice of themed restaurant, two buffet eateries, and speciality restaurants dealing in Italian, Greek, Chinese and French cuisine.

A big bonus on a stay of this nature is there is no need to cross a road to get to the resort's private beach.

If you don't fancy the sea, there are outdoor pools, two freshwater and three are salt water, plus for the more adventurous an 80 metres water slide and seemingly endless facilities with floodlit tennis, minigolf, football and a huge outdoor chess board.

Inside there's a games room with internet access, gym and spa facilities. Daily programmes of activities include everything from water polo to basketball and beach volleyball from an extremely lively entertainments team, which carries on with shows in the bars during the evenings.

Rhodes town is just a 20-minute ride on one of the hotel shuttle buses for about a fiver each return to the impressive medieval town with its huge walls surrounding the central tourist area in the old town.

It features strong walls, an impressive castle, paved paths and elegant stone mansions.

It is also packed with bars, restaurants and shops of all descriptions, literally scores of them competing for the tourists, particularly those off the giant cruise ships who have deep pockets.

It certainly attracts the rich and famous with huge yachts joining the cruise liners anchored in the busy harbour.

However, beware of ordering a large beer. We ordered two and they duly arrived in huge wellington-shaped glasses, each containing two litres and costing a healthy 40 euro. We could have sent them back, but, when in Rome, so to speak, battled through for a couple of hours.

Further afield, hire a car and the pretty resort of Lindos with the Acropolis on top is a must.

Elsewhere there are some magnificent beaches including the picturesque and secluded, certainly when we went, Tsampika Beach. With soft golden sand the bay offers an almost Caribbean atmosphere with its drinks huts and food stalls few and far between, while parking is also free on the edge of the beach itself.

It was the first time visiting the Greek islands – it won't be the last.

The new magazine for Shropshire



YOUR COUNTY.
YOUR VOICE.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 24...



NEWS

THE SILVER SCREEN

In the age of Netflix, cinemas are having to adapt to survive – we look at some of the Shropshire screens, and hear about their future plans.

OUTDOORS

Columnist Phil Moore looks at why it's so important that we continue to support Shropshire's independent traders.

EVENTS

Shropshire Weekly looks ahead to the succession of big-name acts heading for Telford's big top over the coming week.

FOOD

Britain loves its spice, so we look at what makes for a truly tremendous curry.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and another great day out comes under the microscope.

PLUS DAN NIGHTINGALE | GROUSE CINEMA | THE RUNAWAY POET CONCORDE | WEDDING PLANNING MICHELLE OWEN | PROPERTY HEALTH AND WELLNESS | BREXIT LOCAL NEWS AND SPORT | PUBS

ON SALE FRIDAY

I still get asked about my hair



It's been two years since Michael Bolton – the guy who used to sell millions of records and have hair like a lion's mane – last toured the UK.

But the record breaker is looking forward to returning to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on October 15 for his Time, Love and Tenderness tour.

And while fans can look forward to a slew of greatest hits, they ought not to be too confident about predicting a set list. For Michael and his band plan to change things up most nights so that they can keep the show fresh and stay on their toes.

"We are always changing it up from one audience to the next. The only thing you get tired of if you've been out on the road too long is the travel, that's when everything starts to wear on you. Flights can wear you down if you've been doing it too long. We're going to play around with the arrangements for this tour, freshen it up. It's still going to be a greatest hits tour. Fans come for the greatest hits. They've gotten married to certain songs. They've had their greatest and toughest moments through my albums. They've conceived children – or at least written about it. They want to hear the greatest hits."

Michael makes his inspiration from other established artists. He recently went to see Fleetwood Mac in New York and they played 20 hits in a row. They ignited his memory cells and he was hooked on their classics. When Michael hits the road, he aims for a similar ethos. Before the show, he'll have a voice lesson, which he's been doing for 30 years with his teacher Seth Riggs. Such drills are essential for a good show.

"Have you ever watched professional athletes before they take to the field for a game of say soccer? Professional athletes don't run into the middle of a field sprinting – they stretch. Sometimes literally they're lying on their back and being stretched by a trainer. In general they know what to do so they don't injure themselves. It's the same muscles they've been playing professionally with for 15 years or so. Very similar to a lot of athletes preparing, I'm doing scales. I always think of it like going to the driving range with my clubs. You start out with the light ones, the pitching wedge, nine iron, six iron then next thing you know you take your driver out. Most people do that with their vocal coaches. They have funny sounds – not necessarily funny haha – but funny, strange, sounds."

He tunes in to TV shows such as The Crown when he's on the road and enjoys the performances of stars like John Lithgow, who played Churchill. He is a fan of Britain's Royal Family and met the Queen at the Royal Variety Show. He stood in line next to the Spice Girls but one of them forgot to curtsy, which caused a storm. "I don't think it was on purpose," he says.

"I did a show with Pavarotti in France and Princess Di was in the front row. The whole night was surreal. Bono and The Edge were performing and I was singing with Pavarotti for the first time – in Italian. I wrote down the lyrics phonetically. He saw them and said: 'Oh, I see what you're doing here'. He found it amusing. He was so gracious. Afterwards there was a dinner at Pavarotti's Italian restaurant he owned. That's when I walked out to Princess Diana. We talked about the difficulty of having kids and travelling at the same time."

Michael has visited the UK so many times that he once thought about getting a place

in England. However, he is committed to a life in the USA and has a home in Connecticut and a house next door with a recording studio in it. His daughters and six grandchildren often gather there and enjoy his pool.

"The tennis court turns into bicycle riding, which means it needs to be resurfaced every three months. They love showing up at the same time so the whole family gathers there. It's in New England. It's beautiful."

Michael has the fondest memories of playing UK shows. He's a fan of the Royal Albert Hall, which is his favourite venue in the world. Elsewhere, he likes The Sydney Opera House. "Once you understand the sound, you can make it a beautiful evening. I've done a couple of nights there. But give me the Albert Hall anytime."

Before hitting the road, Michael will be working with an orchestra on a new album. It's an international affair with great staff in Los Angeles, Sydney and New York. They communicate via their computers to get the sound spot on. He'll also be making sure he's in shape for his autumn tour by taking care of his exercise and diet. "I really have to take care of myself to have a full voice. I know there are people who are singers that are smokers and somehow they have a great voice. But eventually it's going to catch up with you. "Coating your vocal chords with

anything will take its toll. Fortunately, with music, if you take care of your instrument, you can have a long career.

"Discipline on the road is no joke. The primary rule, which is ironic because singers have a tough time with this issue, is getting eight hours sleep. It's non-negotiable. And don't drink your head off. I don't drink on school nights, which is what I call them when there's a show the next day."

He visits the gym five nights a week when he's on the road and these days he spends so little time drinking that his daughters 'can put him under the table'.

Michael started to enjoy success at the age of 34 and then went into high gear by touring the world and writing hit albums. He worked with other artists and still keeps in touch with Kenny G, playing the occasional round of golf.

Away from the road, he remains committed to his Michael Bolton Charities.

Struggling

"When I started my foundation 25 years ago it was with the intention of helping people who are part of economically struggling families because that's something that I could identify with from my early years. The harshest period of being a starving artist is your family starving with you. After I finally had some success, my first instinct was to try to create an organisation to help struggling families."

"What I want to do is continue raising money, providing money for shelters for more people, replicate the music programme to help as many kids as possible who are survivors of trauma and make sure the Violence Against Women Act is fully funded and passed every six years. If I have a legacy to choose from that would be up at the top."

He's watched the #MeToo campaign with interest and has been deeply affected by the number of people who have spoken out about everyday abuse – whether sexism, misandry or other forms of prejudice.

"Everybody I know is pretty stunned. I know a lot of these people. For most of my adult life we have pushed for zero tolerance when it comes to domestic violence against women; abuse of any kind. From what I understand that's

the lay of the law in America. It's put into the hands now of first responders so if police arrive on the scene and see a physical sign they remove the responsibility from the woman, so she doesn't have to fear the looks that abuser is capable of.

"I think it's a strange way to have the tipping point happen in the United States where people aren't going to stand for the behaviour that has been accepted for a long time. I don't claim to know all the stories, or what the truth is in every instance, and I'm against a rush to judgement. I think really bad things can happen that way as well. But I'm for zero tolerance and the only way that happens is if women speak up. It's been shocking and then to the point where it's so repetitious already now you're expecting it on the next breaking news."

For all of his success and all of his benevolence in the field of charity, one thing will always stand out about Michael – his hair. The star famously had flowing curly locks and even though they were cut off many years ago, he still gets asked about them. He sympathises with younger stars such as James Bay, who recently cut off his long hair and, like Michael, was almost as well known for his look as he was for his music.

"I have zero tolerance for hair getting overshadowed by music," he laughs. "I think it's funny – and hopefully for him it won't be overshadowed by hair. I was in the UK doing a radio promotion when I cut my hair back in the 90s. At the radio station I was doing the interview and during it all this world news was coming through on Teletext. All of sudden it was: 'Michael Bolton cuts hair.' It was completely insane. But that's pop culture I guess."

"I had grown long hair because of the Brits. The invasion had happened. We had the Stones, Beatles, The Kinks, The Zombies, all these great artists on TV all the time so my brother and I grew out our hair immediately."

"Then we would get in trouble walking down the street with long hair. Guys would yell stuff out and try to start a fight. If James Bay keeps writing and delivering strong material it's not going to matter how long or short his hair is."

Andy Richardson



Match of the Day

10.20pm
Gary Lineker presents highlights from the opening matches of the Premier League season, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Everton and Huddersfield Town v Chelsea.



Proms Extra

6.50pm
Katie Derham is joined by cellist and singer Ayanna Witter-Johnson and soprano Nadine Benjamin who discuss collaborating on a performance that combines Brahms and New York disco.



WOS Wrestling

5pm
The Tag Team Tournament continues, plus more challengers for the WOS Championship title emerge. Presented by Rachel Stringer, with commentary from Stu Bennett and Alex Shane.



The People's Vet

4.35pm
Kirkdale head vet Stephen battles to save the leg of King George the pug puppy, and local radio star Barney the budgie has a problem with his feathers.



Gino's Win Your Wish List

9pm
Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family from Co Antrim choose their dream prizes – including a trip to Thailand and a chance to meet Elton John backstage.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
6.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Michel Roux Jr is joined by chefs Sabrina Ghayour and Glynn Purnell, plus special guest Harry Judd, while Olly Smith picks the drinks to go with the studio dishes.
11.30 **Food & Drink.** Michel Roux Jr and Kate Goodman are joined by Mary Berry, who helps them create the perfect afternoon tea, and Rachel Khoo celebrates the patisserie in Paris. (R)
12.00 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to matches on the opening weekend of the Premier League season, including Arsenal v Manchester City and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Everton.
1.00 **BBC News; Weather.**
1.15 **European Championships 2018.** Further live coverage of day 10 of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow and Berlin, featuring diving, golf, and gymnastics.
4.30 **Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.10 **BBC News.**
5.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
5.30 **European Championships 2018.** Gabby Logan presents concluding live coverage of day 10 of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow and Berlin, featuring diving, triathlon, and athletics. The mixed 10m springboard finals conclude at Royal Commonwealth Pool, as does the elite team relay triathlon event at Strathclyde Country Park, but the main focus of attention this evening will be in the athletics at Olympiadstadion Berlin. The penultimate day of competition consists only of finals, and British interest may lie in the women's long jump and 200m, where Lorraine Ugen and Dina Asher-Smith are expected to be among those competing for medals. Other events scheduled to take place are the women's 400m, men's 800m and 5,000m, as well as the women's and men's 4x400m relay races.
9.10 **Casualty.** New series. Iain visits a patient at home, who has frequently tried to harm herself in the past, but decide she does not need help at the moment – despite the concerns of her boyfriend. However, while driving back to the hospital, he witnesses her attempting suicide by jumping off a bridge – which in turn, causes a major crash putting several lives in danger – including Sam's.
10.00 **BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**
10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the opening matches of the Premier League season, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Everton and Huddersfield Town v Chelsea.
11.45 **FILM: Shanghai Knights (2003).** A Chinese sheriff and a reformed bandit hunt for a killer on the murky streets of Victorian London. Martial arts comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson and Aidan Gillen.
1.35 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.40 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.35 **Marrying Mum and Dad.** Seven children plan a music festival-themed wedding. (R)
7.05 **Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers.** An Olympic special.
7.35 **The Dengineers.** The team designs a sound-proofed den for a pair of sibling rockers. (R)
8.05 **Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall.** Dinosaurs that were far deadlier than they first appeared. (R)
8.35 **David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** The surprising preventive and curative 'medicine' developed by certain species. (R)
9.00 **European Championships 2018.** Live coverage of day 10 from Glasgow and Berlin.
1.15 **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** The French influence on British food. (R)
2.15 **Garden Rescue.** The presenters compete to design a garden in Bedford. (R)
3.00 **Wanted Down Under.** A family of three samples life in Auckland, New Zealand. (R)
3.45 **Escape to the Country.** Jules Hudson helps a couple search for a family home in the Shropshire countryside. (R)
4.30 **European Championships 2018.** Continued live coverage of day 10 from Glasgow and Berlin.
5.30 **Flog It!** From Barnard Castle in Co Durham. (R)
5.50 **Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix.** Helping a one-legged girl achieve her dream of becoming a ballerina. (R)
6.50 **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham is joined by guests violinist Joshua Bell, cellist and singer Ayanna Witter-Johnson, and soprano Nadine Benjamin ahead of their Proms performances.
7.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)
8.00 **Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** The consequences of a bomb that fell on 6th Avenue in the city of Hull, flattening two houses and changing the lives of two families for ever. (R)
9.00 **Sylvia Plath: Life Inside the Bell Jar.** Documentary exploring the semi-autobiographical novel, exploring the wider landscape of 1950s gender politics. Featuring an interview with the author's daughter Frieda Hughes.
10.00 **Qi XL.** Extended episode in which Sandi Toksvig invites Lucy Beaumont, Jason Manford, Rhod Gilbert and Alan Davies to answer questions on subjects associated with the North and the Norse. (R)
10.45 **FILM: Devdas (2002).** Childhood friends from contrasting backgrounds form a special bond, but circumstance tears them apart. Gorgeous, epic Oscar-nominated Bollywood musical, starring Shah Rukh Khan.
1.40 **Picnic at Hanging Rock.** French governess Mademoiselle De Poitiers is plagued by guilt. (R)
2.30 **FILM: Sylvia (2003).** Biopic of troubled poet Sylvia Plath, exploring her battle with depression and marriage to Ted Hughes. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Daniel Craig.
4.20 **This is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35** Dino Dana **6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05** NinjaGo: Possession **7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird ITV News.**
8.25 **Zoe Ball On Saturday.** With Rachel Parris, London Hughes and Larry and George Lamb.
9.25 **James Martin's Saturday Morning.** Kate Garraway and Lisa Allen join James in his kitchen, where he prepares chicken and chorizo flatbread, and a white chocolate and banana cheesecake. (R)
11.20 **James Martin's American Adventure.** The TV chef explores New Orleans. (R)
11.50 **Eat, Shop, Save.** A North West mum worries she is feeding her children the wrong things. (R)
12.20 **Love Your Garden.** Alan Titchmarsh and his team heads to Essex to surprise selfless retired Nurse Pat Wade, who was the first person in the UK to set up a charity for young burn survivors. (R)
1.20 **£10K Holiday Home.** Holiday home renovation on a budget. (R)
1.50 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
2.00 **Tenable.** Quiz hosted by Warwick Davis in which five NHS medical staff answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. (R)
3.00 **Tippling Point: Lucky Stars.** Impressionist Jon Culshaw, TV and radio presenter Jenni Falconer and former Dancing on Ice judge Jason Gardiner take turns on the token-pushing machine. Ben Shephard hosts. (R)
4.00 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
5.00 **WOS Wrestling.** The Tag Team Tournament continues.
6.00 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.15 **ITV News Central; Weather.**
6.30 **Japandemonium.** Featuring a man and a dog competing in an eating contest, the strange world of baby racing, and more from Hole in the Road.
7.00 **Big Star's Little Star.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Abbey Clancy, Tristan Gemmill and Sarah Beeny spill the beans about their famous parents.
8.00 **FILM: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014).** Dwarf King Thorin descends into madness as his homeland stands on the brink of war. Conclusion of the fantasy adventure trilogy, with Martin Freeman.
10.35 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
10.55 **FILM: Wanted (2008).** A man joins a secret society of superpowered assassins that kills people destined to commit acts of evil. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.
12.40 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Eternal Glory.** The six remaining contestants face a test of strength endurance under water, a gruelling team event and a sporting version of Simon Says. (R)
3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.10 **Triathlon: London.** Action from the AJ Bell London Triathlon.
7.05 **3rd Rock from the Sun.** Sally takes a liking to Tommy's teacher. (R)
7.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Part one of two. The Barones recall their wedding day. (R)
7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray has to stay with his parents. (R)
8.20 **Frasier.** The Crane brothers seek the ideal gift for Martin's 65th birthday. (R)
8.50 **Frasier.** Part one of two. Niles throws a Halloween party. (R)
9.25 **Frasier.** Part two of two. Roz's pregnancy puts her in a panic. (R)
9.55 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny arranges a date for Raj. (R)
10.20 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon's old adversary Wil Wheaton returns. (R)
10.50 **The Simpsons.** Homer and Marge are accused of being bad parents. (R)
11.20 **The Simpsons.** Marge threatens to leave Homer. (R)
11.50 **Come Dine with Me.** Dinner-party challenge from Manchester. (R)
12.55 **Four in a Bed.** The competition begins at the White Lodge Hotel in Filey, North Yorkshire. (R)
1.25 **Four in a Bed.** The hoteliers check into Crystals on The Prom in Blackpool. (R)
1.55 **Four in a Bed.** The third visit is to the Red Lion in Upper Poppleton, North Yorkshire. (R)
2.30 **Four in a Bed.** The house owners make their way to Camp Katur in North Yorkshire. (R)
3.00 **Four in a Bed.** The final day of the contest arrives. (R)
3.35 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Sri Lankan couple Kulan and Kamala search for a property on Portugal's Algarve. (R)
4.35 **The People's Vet.** Kirkdale head vet Stephen battles to save the leg of King George the pug puppy.
5.35 **Escape to the Chateau: DIY.** It is crunch time for Jonathan and Michael, who are facing their investors. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **A Year in the New Forest.** The challenges faced by people and animals in the spring, from semi-wild cattle and ponies preparing to give birth to the impact of late frost on goshawks.
8.00 **My Family and the Galapagos.** Monty Halls takes his daughter snorkelling with sharks, before joining a research expedition to photograph whale sharks and learning about marine iguanas. Last in the series.
9.00 **FILM: Eye in the Sky (2015).** Premiere. A mission to wipe out a terrorist cell is complicated when a girl enters the blast radius of a planned drone strike. Thriller, starring Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman.
11.00 **FILM: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012).** Vampire couple Edward and Bella defend their newborn child from the leaders of the undead. Conclusion of the romantic fantasy series, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.
1.05 **The Last Leg.** With guests Sue Perkins and Joe Thomas. (R)
2.00 **Hollyoaks.** (R)
4.10 **Vet on the Hill.** (R)
5.05 **Lost and Found.** A dog runs off the cliff-top at Beachy Head. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10** Wissper **6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30** Milkshake! Monkey **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies **6.40** Seaside Antics **6.45** Olly the Little White Van **6.50** Simon **7.00** Peppa Pig **7.05** Paw Patrol **7.15** Thomas and Friends: Extraordinary Engines **7.30** Fireman Sam **7.45** Rusty Rivets **8.00** Paw Patrol **8.15** Pirata & Capitano **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.50** Floogals **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **9.10** Shimmer and Shine **9.30** Digby Dragon **9.45** Peppa Pig **9.55** Peppa Pig **10.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The brothers accompany baby Kintaro and his guardian Usagi to the Temple of the Sky Buddha. (R)
10.35 **Chuckie Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show. (R)
11.25 **Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits.** A reckless car thief seems intent on causing carnage. (R)
12.25 **Police Interceptors.** Officers embark on a series of operations targeting crimes connected to narcotics. (R)
1.20 **Police Interceptors.** The work of Lincolnshire's Roads Policing Unit. (R)
2.20 **Police Interceptors.** Craggy has an early morning encounter with a polecat. (R)
3.15 **Police Interceptors.** Officers descend on a hotel to arrest members of a gang. (R)
4.15 **FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003).** Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.
5.15 **5 News Update.**
5.20 **FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003).** Concluded.
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Action from the third day of the Second Test in the five-match series, taking place at Lord's.
7.55 **5 News Weekend.**
8.00 **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which a personal trainer and a Blackpool resident must choose between three unseen suitors.
9.00 **Gino's Win Your Wish List.** Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family from Co Antrim choose their dream prizes – including a trip to Thailand and a chance to meet Elton John backstage.
10.00 **When Live TV Goes Horribly Wrong.** Memorable on-air hitches, including presenter Sarah Cawood recalling the time The National Lottery Jetset studio was invaded by Fathers for Justice protestors. (R)
12.55 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
3.10 **Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb.** The father-and-son duo explore Northumberland. (R)
4.00 **Autopsy: Philip Seymour Hoffman.** Investigating the death of the American actor. (R)
4.45 **House Doctor.** Property expert Ann Maurice visits Kent to offer advice to a Maidstone homeowner looking to relocate. (R)
5.10 **Great Artists.** Greek artist El Greco. (R)
5.35 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

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European Championships 2018
6.30pm
Gabby Logan presents concluding coverage of day 11 from Berlin, where the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event draws to a close with the final night of athletics.



Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls
9pm
Ed Balls discovers who benefits financially from Trump's presidency, visiting a private members' club and making a public appearance at a Tea Party convention. Last in the series.



Unforgotten
9pm
James faces the possibility that his son may have killed Hayley, while Fran cracks a code in the dead girl's diary suggesting she met a drug dealer on the night she disappeared.



Hidden Britain by Drone
8pm
Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of a chain of sea forts that were once a lair for pirates, a secret underground bunker, a sewage plant and a luxury car emporium.



Cricket on 5
7pm
England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the Second Test in the five-match series, taking place at Lord's. With commentary by Michael Vaughan.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
9.00	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the opening matches of the Premier League season, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Everton and Huddersfield Town v Chelsea. (R)
10.25	Sunday Morning Live. Sean Fletcher and Cherry Healey discuss social media's potential to do good or cause harm. Plus, a look at how horses can be helpful in treating recovering addicts.
11.25	Bargain Hunt. Tim Wonnacott travels to Oswestry Showground, Shropshire, where he and experts Christina Trevanion and Kate Bliss are joined by two teams of dancers. (R)
12.25	Songs of Praise. Sean Fletcher visits a Catholic youth retreat at Alton castle, and presents the stories of how an astronaut and a footballer have had their lives transformed by faith.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	European Championships 2018. Further live coverage of day 11 from Glasgow and Berlin, featuring diving, open water swimming, gymnastics, road cycling, and golf.
5.00	BBC News.
5.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.30	Countryfile. Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present the show from Nottinghamshire, examining efforts to conserve the region's bramley apple trees and rare species of bats. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
6.30	European Championships 2018. Gabby Logan presents concluding coverage of day 11 from Berlin, where the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event draws to a close with the final night of athletics. British middle-distance runners Laura Muir and Eilish McColgan are expected to compete in the respective finals of the women's 1500m and 3,000m steeplechase, while the men's triple jump event also takes place, before the finals of the women's and men's 4x100m relay races provide an exciting climax to the competition.
9.00	Fake or Fortune? New series. Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould examine a still life that may have been painted by prolific artist William Nicholson, but which has been rejected by leading experts on his work. They discover a useful source of evidence in Nicholson's own paint box, but as they delve into the painting's history, they discover it may have been connected to one of the 20th century's greatest art crimes. Fiona meets a reformed forger to discover if he ever faked a Nicholson while Philip takes the painting to Canada to compare it to another of the artist's works.
10.00	BBC News.
10.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's three Premier League matches, featuring Arsenal v Manchester City, Liverpool v West Ham United and Southampton v Burnley.
11.35	The Truth About Getting Fit. Michael Mosley and a team of scientists investigate some of the easiest and most effective ways to get the biggest benefits of exercise. (R)
12.35	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.05	Gardeners' World. Monty Don looks at how his autumn crops are faring, while Mark Lane takes a look at the Mediterranean planting at Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight. (R)
7.05	Countryfile. The show comes from East Yorkshire. (R)
8.00	European Championships 2018. Live coverage of day 11 from Glasgow and Berlin, featuring diving, open water swimming, road cycling, golf, and athletics.
1.15	Hairy Bikers' Best of British. St King and Dave Myers celebrate pork, exploring the role the pig has played in the UK's history and travelling to a farm in Gloucestershire to visit a couple raising rare breeds. (R)
2.15	The Mating Game - Natural World Special. The different methods animals use to attract a mate. (R)
3.15	Money for Nothing. The team transform items reclaimed from a skip in the West Midlands. (R)
4.00	Escape to the Country. A couple seek a property in Norfolk with enough room for their dogs and horses. (R)
5.00	European Championships 2018. Gabby Logan presents continued live coverage of day 11 from Glasgow and Berlin, featuring gymnastics, golf, and athletics.
6.30	Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. Paul and Bob fish the river Wensum in Norfolk for Roach, and decide to challenge each other to a fishing competition where the winner gets a very special culinary treat. (R)
7.00	Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace explores the North Yorkshire factory that produces 625,000 sausages a day, and in Chester, Cherry Healey gets the scientific lowdown on the best bangers. (R)
8.00	Dragons' Den. New series. The panel is presented with a live anatomy dissection business and a new model of tuk-tuk, then display their musical skills while assessing a singer-for-hire scheme.
9.00	Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls. Ed Balls discovers who benefits financially from Trump's presidency, visiting a private members' club and making a public appearance at a Tea Party convention. Last in the series.
10.00	Lost Boys? What's Going Wrong for Asian Men. Reporter Mehreen Baig reports on the challenges facing Asian men growing up in modern Britain, examining the different experiences of those of Pakistani and Gujarati heritage.
11.00	FILM: Kings of Curry (2013). A woman planning her wedding wants both her father and her uncle to attend, so has to resolve their long-standing feud. Comedy, starring Amara Karan and Harish Patel.
12.20	Sign Zone: Countryfile. The show comes from East Yorkshire, where John Craven meets cobble boat enthusiasts, Margherita Taylor uncovers a secret art trail, and Steve Brown learns about uses for hemp. (R)
1.15	Sign Zone: Holby City. Fletch clashes with estranged father Steven when Evie demands they let him back into their lives, while Essie is determined to help Josh. (R)
2.15	This is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35
	Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05
	NinjaGo: Possession 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird
	ITV News.
8.25	Zoe Ball on Sunday. With Phyllis Logan, David Morgan and Grace Dent.
8.30	Japandemonium. A man and a dog compete in an eating contest. (R)
9.25	Ninja Warrior UK. Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)
9.50	WOS Wrestling. The Tag Team Tournament continues. (R)
10.50	Big Star's Little Star. With Abbey Clancy, Tristan Gemmill and Sarah Beeny. (R)
11.50	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.50	Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. Paul O'Grady meets children receiving life-changing treatment at the Great Ormond Street Hospital. (R)
1.00	Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. With Ashley Roberts, Jamelia and Jeff Brazier. (R)
2.30	The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
3.30	FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001). Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood.
6.40	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.50	Midsomer Murders. The unveiling of a newly discovered novel by a deceased writer is jeopardised when the manuscript is stolen and an artist is electrocuted by a lethal roulette wheel. (R)
7.00	Unforgotten. James faces the possibility that his son may have killed Hayley, while Fran cracks a code in the dead girl's diary suggesting she met a drug dealer on the night she disappeared.
9.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.05	Carry On Forever. June Whitfield and Sally Geeson recall how Carry On Abroad was filmed much closer to home than the cast had hoped and Patrick Mower reflects on Carry On England. Last in the series. (R)
10.20	Tonight at the Palladium. Variety show from the West End theatre, featuring some of the UK's best-loved comedians and entertainers. (R)
11.20	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
12.10	Motorsport UK. Richard John Neil presents racing from Croft, featuring action from round 11 of the Ginetta GT4 Supercup and round 15 of the British F4 Championship. (R)
3.00	British Superbike Championship Highlights. Greg Haines presents action from Thruxton in Hampshire, where the seventh round of the season took place. With commentary by Jack Bumicle and James Whitham.
3.50	ITV News Screen. Text-based information service.
4.40	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4	
6.00	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. How to make a treasure chest. (R)
6.05	Mobil 1: The Grid. Including a behind-the-scenes look at the 24 Hours of Spa.
6.30	Motor Sport: British GT. Action from the eighth round of the season.
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra bans Frank from driving the kids anywhere. (R)
7.55	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra hires a babysitter. (R)
8.25	Fraser. The shrink's celebrations for his 1,000th show go awry. (R)
8.55	Fraser. The shrink is invited to be a guest speaker on a cruise. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Anita Rani, Sophie Thompson and Joel Dommett.
12.30	The Simpsons. Part one of two. Mr Burns is shot. (R)
1.00	The Simpsons. Part two of two. The mysterious shooting of Mr Burns is solved. (R)
1.30	Peng Life. Elijah Quashie hosts this review show that aims to separate the street from the elite. (R)
2.00	FILM: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011). Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.
4.00	Location, Location, Location. House-hunting in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. (R)
5.00	A Place in the Sun. A couple from Yorkshire look for a second home in Barbados.
5.30	Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton visits a modern thatched home in north-west Scotland. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams. Arthur explores the South East by plane, discovering the dangers of flying through London's crowded airspace and visiting the birthplace of British aviation on the North Kent coast.
8.00	Hidden Britain by Drone. Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of a chain of sea forts that were once a lair for pirates, a secret underground bunker, a sewage plant and a luxury car emporium.
9.00	The Handmaid's Tale. Serena Joy and the other wives strive to make change, and Emily learns more about her new Commander. Last in the series.
10.20	Mama's Angel. Israeli mystery thriller, starring Sharon Stark as a prison therapist who has to treat a child murderer at the same time as she is dealing with the disappearance of her son. Full series available online.
11.15	First Dates. Dapper Will is looking for a woman to share his love of the countryside, but he has never had a girlfriend and is not a natural when it comes to chatting up a lady. (R)
12.15	FILM: Fruitvale Station (2013). Fact-based drama, with Michael B. Jordan.
1.45	FILM: Surtan (2016). Greek drama, starring Makis Papadimitriou.
3.30	Vet on the Hill. Scott tries to help a Spanish rescue cat with a chronic eye condition. (R)
4.25	Lost and Found. Two rescued Staffi pups seek a new home. (R)
5.20	The Posh Frock Shop. (R)
5.45	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wisper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Seaside Antics 6.45 Olly the Little White Van 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas and Friends: Extraordinary Engines 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Pirata & Capitano 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
10.00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. A flashback episode exploring Splinter's origins. (R)
10.30	Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
10.35	Police Interceptors. A violent man gives officers the runaround. (R)
11.25	Police Interceptors. A van thief takes a disastrous wrong turn. (R)
12.20	Police Interceptors. An officer has an early morning encounter with a drunk driver. (R)
1.15	Police Interceptors. The work of Cheshire's high-speed police interception unit. (R)
2.15	Police Interceptors. Police dog Bonnie is used in the hunt for two runaways. (R)
3.15	Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords: Disturbing the Peace. Landlords who faced prosecution if they did not evict their violent tenants. (R)
4.15	Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. A Cheshire landlord is shocked to hear squatters are living in his property. (R)
5.15	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The officers chase a debt of almost £2,000 in unpaid parking fines. (R)
6.05	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents chase more than £1,700 in unpaid parking fines in south-east London, and in north Wales, officers try to recover £2,000 owed by a tradesman to a former employer. (R)
7.00	Cricket on 5. England v India. Action from the fourth day of the Second Test in the five-match series, taking place at Lord's.
7.50	5 News Weekend.
8.00	FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006). Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.
9.15	5 News Update.
9.20	FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006). Concluded.
10.55	FILM: The Expendables 2 (2012). The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme.
11.55	Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
12.00	FILM: The Expendables 2 (2012). Concluded.
12.50	Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
1.15	SuperCasino.
3.10	Britain's Parking Hell. (R)
4.00	The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant. (R)
4.45	House Doctor. (R)
5.10	Great Artists. The work of 17th-century artist Peter Paul Rubens. (R)
5.35	Wildlife SOS. (R)



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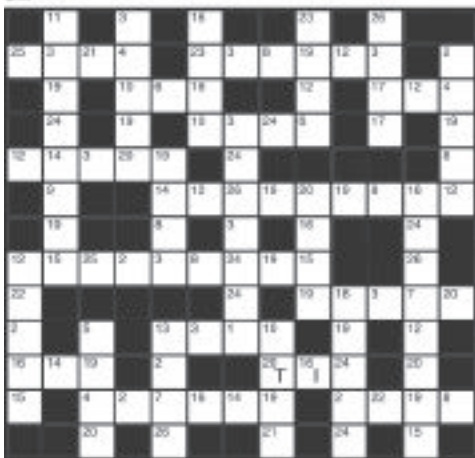
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	Y	O	P	D	I	R	H	Z	F	G	L	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	C	U	E	A	X	K	J	S	N	V	W	Q

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

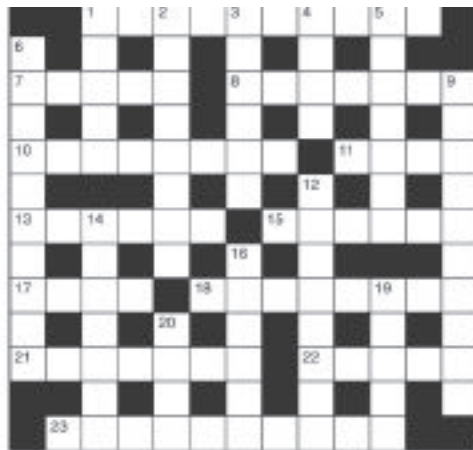
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Escort me to new set-up to settle (4,2,4)
- Correctly adjust a rank, we hear (5)
- Change of raiment for part of the mosque (7)
- 10 & 3Dn. Become incensed and fail to process the steel properly? (4,4,5)
- 22 Across is backing the favourites (4)
- Mother to make inquiries for fine material (5)
- Imitates one with chest disorder (5)
- Few disturbed about one mate (4)
- Tutor can become a renegade (5)
- A blazer put on at Christmas time (4-3)
21. A blazer put on at Christmas time (4-3)
23. Friday dragging on infinitely without company! (10)

Down

- Money required for company in the south (5)
- My French bird is a snake destroyer (5)
- See 10 Across.
- It comes from a celler in Germany (4)
- Extend a sentence (7)
- Telephoned on holiday - received message to depart (5,4)
- He should put the eight letters in his case (4-6)
- One's gate could date back a long way (5,3)
- Neckwear that will deaden the sound (7)
- Softly encouraged to be refined (5)
- Jewels appeal to friends (5)
- Most of the Navy escape (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Amazing (10)
- Map (5)
- Touch (7)
- Eternally (8)
- Couple (4)
- Threefold (5)
- Picture-house (5)
- Absent (4)
- Answer (5)
- Investigate (7)
- Debate (5)
- Tenacious (10)

Down

- Musty (5)
- Inopportune (5)
- Accompany (5)
- Completed (4)
- Ignorant (7)
- Emphasise (10)
- Menaced (10)
- Supplant (5)
- Pattern (7)
- Alcove (5)
- Darkness (5)
- Fling (4)

Sudoku

6	5			9				8
4		7	8		2			
		1	7			5		
7	2	8						
			9	4			8	
		5				6	3	1
	6				4	9		
				8	2	3		5
		4	1				2	6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	8	7	9	5	4	1	3	6
4	3	6	8	1	9	2	7	5
6	1	8	5	7	2	6	9	4
5	2	8	1	3	8	4	9	1
9	7	3	1	4	5	6	2	7
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	7	3
1	5	8	4	2	3	7	6	9
5	9	4	6	6	7	5	1	5
7	8	5	1	8	5	4	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Starter; 7 Every; 9 End; 10 Appearing; 12 Sports model; 15 Star studded; 17 Violists; 19 Use; 21 Begun; 22 Binding. Down: 1 Stand; 2 Urr; 3 Keep; 4 Overpower; 5 Drinker; 8 Leased; 11 Appraisal; 13 Raffle; 14 Steamer; 16 Lions; 18 Trip; 20 Odd. QUICK - Across: 6 Legally; 7 Civil; 9 Why; 10 Resultant; 12 Possibility; 15 Downhearted; 17 Solidity; 19 View; 21 Boasted; 22 Leading. Down: 1 Learn; 2 Way; 3 Clear; 4 Dettler; 5 Dignity; 8 Number; 11 Countless; 13 Speedy; 14 Control; 16 Mount; 18 Team; 20 Add.

Quiz

- Which two of Wagner's opera titles are father and son?
- At what Beaufort number does smoke rise vertically?
- Of which element is charcoal a form?
- What was 12-year-old Vicki van Meter the youngest female pilot to cross?
- Who painted The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp?
- What was the British equivalent of

- America's Bureau of Consumer Protection?
- Who was the second man on the moon?
- With which medical disorder may one have Jacksonian seizures?
- Which controversial TV playwright died in June 1994?
- Of which country was Rafael Callejas elected president in 1989?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Orwell; 2 Dance; 3 Nicotia; 4 A zygote; 5 M/V Derbyshire; 6 Henry VIII; 7 Hastings; 8 Pierce Brosnan; 9 Mushroom; 10 Ionian.

Niner: LUBRICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6311787
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95612478

gives an Italian composer,
gives a Norwegian composer,
gives an American composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Resin Driveways

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The small gaps between the stones allow for any surface water to drain through into the ground. This prevents any water build up and keeps your driveway puddle-free. This is especially important if your home is located in any high flood risk areas.

No More Weeds

Unlike the traditional paving surfaces, resin bound driveways do not promote the growth of weeds.

Easy Installation

Permeable surfaces such as resin driveways do not require planning permission.

Simple Maintenance

The appearance of gravel, without the loose stones. This makes your driveway simple to maintain. The smooth and flat surface makes it easier to use wheelchairs or pushchairs for example.

Weather Resistant

The textured surface works as an effective anti-skid, whereas other driveway materials can become hazardous during wet weather. Resin driveways are also weather resistant, they won't soften during hot weather or freeze in the winter.

We offer a range of styles and textures to match both the style of your home and your expectations.

Built to Last

Our resin driveways are made with high-quality materials, this durability ensures they are built to last. Resin driveways are a great way for your home to make a fantastic first impression.

Traditional driveway materials can degrade over time. Paving stones can crack, and loose gravel stones can lose their surface coverage. With our resin technology, you can rest assured that your home will have a quality driveway for years to come.

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Deaths

GATEHOUSE

Nelly Beatrice

nee Doolittle

Of Pound Green.

Passed away peacefully
at home, on July 26, aged
93 years.

Loving Wife of Andrew,
Mother of Edwin and Jane,
Grandmother of Mark,
James and Vicky and Great-
Grandmother of Callum,
Olivia, Hollie and Evan.

Funeral Service and
Cremation at Wyre Forest
Crematorium, 2.30pm on
Wednesday, August 15.

Family flowers only.

Donations for Midland Air
Ambulance c/o

B INCE

Funeral Directors

Bank House,

Bewdley,

DY12 2DX.

Inquiries 01299 403105.

JONES

Richard Anthony

(Tony)

Of Park Drive, Oswestry.

Passed away peacefully at
home, surrounded by his
loving Family and Friends on
July 30, 2018. Aged 70 years.

Much loved Partner of Hilary
and Father of Mark.

He will be sadly missed by all
who knew him.

Funeral Service at
Pentrebychan Crematorium,
Wrexham on Tuesday, August
14, at 3.30pm.

No black necessary.

Family flowers only please, but
donations, if desired to The
Hamar Centre at The Royal
Shrewsbury Hospital.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors,

Oakwood,

Salop Road,

Oswestry.

Telephone 01691-652995.

MORREY

Ann

Of Little Dawley, Telford.

Passed away peacefully after
a long illness bravely
borne, on August 1, 2018, aged
73 years.

Dearly loved Wife of Graham,
Mum of Karen and Venetia and
a much loved Nan and Great-
Nan.

Funeral Service 11.30am,
Wednesday, August 15, at
Telford Crematorium.

Family flowers only by request
but if desired donations for
Severn Hospice, would be ap-
preciated.

All inquiries to

The CJ Williams

Funeral Service

01952 505835

NAYLOR

Kathleen Anne

Of Stretton Farm Road, Church
Stretton.

Died peacefully in The Royal
Shrewsbury Hospital, on July
20, 2018, aged 77 years.

Anne will be sadly missed by
all her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to be held at
Shrewsbury Crematorium, on
Thursday, August 9, 2018, at
2.45pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired to be
divided between The British
Heart Foundation and
Stretton's Mayfair Trust.

Inquiries to

A S MORRIS & SON

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STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, STILL
UNDER FORD WARRANTY TILL 2019, 1
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IMMACULATE CONDITION



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CARS OF THE WEEK

VAUXHALL MOKKA MOKKA 1.6 VVT SE 115



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ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 1 POD
CONNECTION, IMMACULATE
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Mazda's flagship model is updated

By Graham Breeze

The SUV revolution has been hitting the saloon and tourer market so Mazda has given its flagship 6 a stunning overhaul.

The new look Mazda6 has arrived in showrooms with a stylish new look, an up-market interior and a 25-model range boasting a choice of four trim levels.

And as well as enhanced technology there's the UK debut of Mazda's cylinder deactivation SKYACTIV-G 2.5 litre petrol engine and 2.2 litre diesel benefitting from a power upgrade to 184ps.

Features

With prices from £23,195 to £33,585 the range features SE-L Nav+, SE-L Lux Nav+, Sport Nav+ trim and the 2.5 litre SKYACTIV-G engine which should keep both the private and business buyers happy.

And while other manufacturers are determined to head down the electric and hybrid route Mazda remains dedicated to running on fresh air. All thanks to a cylinder deactivation system with the direct-injection four-cylinder engine switching seamlessly between four and two-cylinder operation improving economy at little if any cost to performance.

A new grille with the mesh-positioned deeper makes the new Mazda6 stand-out from the previous model and the sleeker look combines nicely with cleaner rear bumper styling on both saloon and tourer models.

New Mazda6 sits proudly on a set of very attractive new alloys and you'll be hard pressed not to fall head over heels for the all-new soul red crystal metallic paint job



Inside both saloon and tourer have been given the full works



The rear bumper styling has a cleaner look

which fits perfectly alongside the new design features.

Inside both saloon and tourer have been given the full works. Things have certainly gone up-market with a combination of new materials and technology. Taking centre stage is an eight-inch centre display screen and there's the welcome arrival of a full colour windscreen projected active driving display – a feature that surely must soon become

standard across the industry. Everything's better inside and you can't help but be impressed by trim levels particularly on the GT Sports Nav+ which features real Japanese Sen wood trim along with leather and suede seats. Safety features highly too with all models having a range of features including blind spot monitoring with rear cross traffic alerts, radar cruise control, lane keep assist and advanced Smart City Break Support.



A new grille with the mesh-positioned deeper makes the new Mazda6 stand-out from the previous model

On the road there's nothing to chose between the opposition such as Ford Mondeo when it comes to handling and the Mazda6 is nothing short of delightful to drive at motorway cruising speeds.

There's no issues for passengers when it comes to space with five able to sit comfortably in both saloon and tourer and the 60/40 splitting rear seats are easy to release to create a completely flat load space.

We tested the 2.5litre 194ps GT Sport Nav+ Saloon with automatic gearbox, which in soul red crystal would set you back £31,595. The model has a top speed of 138mph with 0-62mph in 8.1seconds, combined fuel figures of 42.2mpg and CO2 levels of 153g/km.

You get the feeling the bosses at Mazda are happy with their completely updated flagship model and I would expect sales targets to be comfortably met this year.



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52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles	£3995
V JAGUAR XKD Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN	£700A
07 JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7D Auto, Blue, Leather	SOLD
08 JAGUAR XF SPORT, 2.7 TD Auto, Champagne Met, leather, 50k	£2975

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16 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI 136 Techline, Grey Met, 8k	SOLD
14 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, NAVIGATOR, Auto, Black, 26k	£7995
11 NISSAN QASHQAI ASENTA, 51k, Deep Red Met	£7650
08 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	SOLD
61 BMW 730i, M SPORT AUTO 3.0 DIESEL, stunning looks, Auto	£13875
60 VW Polo 1.2, 5 door, Silver, low mileage	£4499
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active, low mileage, beautiful car	SOLD
09 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3 door, Coupe, 1.6, Silver	£2925
56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2875
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£2495
67 FIAT PUNTO Sporting 7 Jet	£2495
07 FORD FUSION TDCI, low tax, nice proper car	SOLD
57 RENAULT CLIO, Campus, Silver, 3 door	£1685
03 TOYOTA YARIS, colour collection, 3 door	£1295
52 VAUXHALL CORSA AUTO, Red, only 33k miles	£1225
57 KIA SEDONA Diesel, 7 seats, low miles	DUE IN

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04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver	£1295

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W HONDA CRV, new MOT, drives well, just in part-ex	£1295

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W BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us	£995
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03 NISSAN ALMERA, new MOT	£850
51 VAUXHALL COMBO VAN	£850

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09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K	£5,184
62 FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING	£30 ROAD TAX 10K
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£4,995
13 FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK 3 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING 34K	£4,895
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57 MINI COPER HATCHBACK, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 73K	£3,995
08 HONDA JAZZ, MET. LIGHT PINK, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 65K	£3,995
59 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£3,795
11 CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY	£20 ROAD TAX 28K
10 TOYOTA AYGO PLATINUM SPECIAL EDITION, 3 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY	£20 ROAD TAX 60K
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06 AUDI A4 1.8 TURBO TSE, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 109K	£3,250
09 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE, GREY, AIR CONDITIONING, ONE OWNER 48K	£2,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA BREEZE 1.4 HATCHBACK, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 49K	£2,750
55 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE, GREEN, SERVICE HISTORY 68K	SOLD

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66 FORD TRANSIT 350 L3 H3, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 21K £13,795 |

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63 VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER TDI SWB, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 78K £9,695 |

15 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY MAXI LWB START LINE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, BLUE, AIR CON. ELECT. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 28K £8,795 |

62 FORD TRANSIT 100 T280 SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 48K £7,695 |

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HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec
5dr RED
WAS £8,995 NOW £8,495



65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK
1.4 ISG 3
5dr RED
WAS £9,695 NOW £8,995



15 Reg MAZDA2 SPECIAL EDITIONS
1.5 Sports Launch Edition
5dr WHITE
WAS £9,995 NOW £9,495



64 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK
1.5 EcoBoost 182 Titanium X
5dr WHITE
WAS £9,995 NOW £9,495



16 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L
Nav 5dr BLACK
WAS £8,695 NOW £7,995



65 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L Nav
5dr WHITE
WAS £8,995 NOW £8,495



64 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE
2.0 TDCi 150 Zetec
5dr 2WD GREY
WAS £11,495 NOW £10,495



13 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE
2.0 TDCi 150 Zetec
5dr SUV SILVER
WAS £10,695 NOW £9,995



67 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL
HATCHBACK 2.2d SE-L Nav 5dr
(Demonstrator) SILVER
WAS £14,995 NOW £13,995



61 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta
Premium 5dr RED
WAS £12,995 NOW £11,995



15 Reg RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Dynamique
TomTom Energy 5dr BLACK
WAS £8,495 NOW £7,995



13 Reg SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 DDiS SZ3
5dr BLACK
WAS £7,995 NOW £6,995

TELFORD CARS OF THE WEEK!



15 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL
ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 150 Titanium
5dr 2WD
£12,995



10 Reg HYUNDAI i20
HATCHBACK 1.2 Classic
3dr
£3,995



64 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA
HATCHBACK 1.4 SE
5dr
£7,495



61 Reg HYUNDAI SANTA FE
DIESEL ESTATE 2.2 CRDi Premium
5dr Auto [5 Seats]
£8,995



14 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK
1.0 EcoBoost Zetec
5dr
£7,295



15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK
1.4 ecoFLEX SE
3dr
£8,995



16 Reg RENAULT MEGANE
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi GT
Line Nav 5dr
£9,995



15 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK
SPECIAL EDITION 1.0 VR7
3dr
£5,695



65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK
1.4 2
5dr Auto
£9,495



66 Reg FORD FIESTA
HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec
3dr
£8,995



05 Reg NISSAN ALMERA
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE
5dr
£2,395



15 Reg FORD B-MAX DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 TDCi Zetec
5dr
£8,495



63 Reg VOLVO V40 DIESEL
HATCHBACK D2 SE
5dr
£9,495



63 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI
105 SE 5dr
£8,795



14 Reg NISSAN NOTE
HATCHBACK 1.2 Acenta
Premium 5dr
£7,995



58 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 Sport
5dr
£4,295

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MOTORING

ROAD TEST



The car looks a lot like the old one but sharpened up all round

Solid seller becomes even better as Ceed moves on

By Ian Donaldson

There's something missing on the latest Kia, although you may hardly notice. Or indeed care.

Especially as it's all about the way the name is presented, with the over complicated and now former Ceed becoming simply Ceed.

It's the sort of thing that bothers car makers rather more than the folk who buy their product, but from now on it's simply Ceed – as in a car for the Community of Europe, with European Design.

This latest version of a car that has been a solid seller since they started to appear in 2006 looks a lot like the old one (no bad thing) but sharpened up all round and a little bit wider but lower for a more athletic look.

More practically, the result is a bigger boot and more shoulder room for rear seat passengers in this five-door hatchback, which continues to offer enough space for a growing family and their luggage.

The dashboard looks more upmarket and modern while, thankfully, keeping enough old fashioned buttons to make life for the driver both more convenient and safer than relying too much on the finger dabs and swipes on a touchscreen.

There's a choice of three engines, two petrol and one diesel. Leading the petrol charge is an undated version of the existing 1.0 litre with 118bhp. More power is available from a new 1.4 litre petrol unit which replaces the old and larger 1.6 and with 138bhp on tap is actually modestly more potent. It's also usefully economical, with 48.7mpg on the new official test and 132g/km of emissions.

Showing there's life in diesels yet, your Ceed can have a new 1.6 litre 114bhp powerplant on board. It's 99g/km emissions figure will be a temptation to people buying a new Ceed for business use and so will its 74.3mpg official economy boast.

As standard all three engines are mated to a crisp-changing six-speed manual gearbox; a seven-speed auto is an option on the diesel and 1.4 petrol variants.

Eking our every last drop of fuel, Ceed's with a new ECO pack slip through the air more easily thanks to a flap that blanks out the radiator grille when there is no need for total engine cooling and lowered suspension and an underbody cover help too. So too



The dashboard looks more upmarket and modern



There's more room in the boot than the previous model

do special tyres that take less effort to roll along the road.

The newcomer is available in four grades, starting with '2' and moving through Blue Edition and '3' to top out with the bells and whistles First Edition. Prices range from £18,295 for a 1.0 litre in '2' spec to £26,850 for a First Edition 1.4 with auto gears. Diesels start at £19,545 and 1.4 petrols at £21,095.

Even the entry level Ceed lacks for little, taking in cruise control, 16ins alloy wheels, electric windows all round, air conditioning, reversing camera, DAB radio, Bluetooth and Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

A suite of safety additions include blind spot collision warning and forward collision avoidance that recognises if you close too quickly on a vehicle or pedestrian and will start braking if you don't.

Kia pointed us towards the Tatras mountains in Slovakia on the Ceed's press launch with the new 1.6 diesel initially doing the hard work.

It didn't take many kilometres to appreciate the car's newfound quietness or a ride that smoothly laughed off the odd bit of Slovakian road surface that wasn't spirit level flat.

Turning to the new Ceed, but with the new 1.4 petrol engine aboard, produced a car transformed, with more immediate performance on tap and a more confident feel on the corners. This time the 8.6 seconds to 62mph felt briskly correct.

Even hampered on the economy front by an (optional) automatic gearbox, the car made a compelling case for petrol with 54.5mpg on the trip readout. It's the one to choose this time unless you absolutely need to wring out every last drop of fuel.

How they stand

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Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 9, 2018

Birmingham & District Premier League

League

Premier Division 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	15	8	3	2	0	2	253
Knowle & D.	15	10	1	3	0	1	247
WB Dartmouth	15	8	4	2	0	2	233
Smethwick	15	6	4	4	0	1	206
Shrewsbury	15	7	2	5	0	1	200
Moseley	15	6	1	7	0	1	175
Kenilworth W	15	4	5	4	0	2	167
Dorridge	15	5	1	8	0	1	151
Ombersley	15	4	3	7	0	1	148
Walsall	15	4	4	6	0	1	145
Barn Green	15	2	3	8	0	2	121
Wolverhampton	15	1	4	9	0	1	108

Division One 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Kidderminster	15	10	1	3	0	1	247
Shifnal	15	7	3	4	0	1	200
Tamworth	15	8	1	4	0	2	196
Halesowen	15	5	4	4	0	2	196
Oswestry	15	5	3	5	0	2	192
Barnards Green	15	7	2	4	0	2	191
Bromsgrove	15	5	3	5	0	2	189
Bridgnorth	15	6	2	6	0	1	185
Himley	15	5	4	4	0	2	165
Leamington	15	3	4	7	0	2	142
Brockhampton	15	3	0	10	0	2	125
Wellington	15	2	2	10	0	1	98

Division Two 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Walmley	15	9	2	3	0	1	232
Harborne	15	5	6	3	0	1	223
C & R Hawks	15	8	1	4	0	2	207
Attok	15	6	2	5	0	2	200
Sutton Coldfield	15	7	2	4	0	2	198
Penkridge	15	6	3	4	1	1	197
Coventry & N.W.	15	6	2	5	0	2	178
Pershore	15	5	4	4	0	2	178
Wombourne	15	5	1	9	0	0	163
Fordhouses	15	4	0	10	0	1	143
Streety	15	4	2	8	0	1	137
Astwood Bank	15	3	1	9	0	2	119

Division Three 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Stourbridge	15	9	4	0	0	2	252
Stratford-U-Avon	15	8	3	3	0	1	227
Rugby	15	9	1	4	0	1	225
Old Hill	15	9	1	4	0	1	223
Pelsall	15	7	3	4	0	1	220
Lichfield	15	7	2	4	0	1	199
Handsworth	15	6	2	5	0	2	183
Redditch	15	5	2	6	0	2	179
Newport	15	5	1	8	0	1	133
Milford Hall	15	3	1	9	0	2	116
Old Elizabethans	15	3	0	10	0	2	105
Whitchurch	15	2	1	11	0	1	82

Premier Division 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Leamington	15	10	2	2	0	1	244
Shifnal	15	9	1	3	0	2	230
Wolverhampton	15	9	1	3	0	2	229
Kenilworth W	15	8	1	3	0	2	214
Knowle & D.	15	6	3	4	0	2	199
Attok	15	5	3	5	0	2	187
Tamworth	15	5	4	6	0	1	186
Harborne	15	3	6	4	0	2	161
Brockhampton	15	4	2	8	0	1	145
Walmley	15	3	3	8	0	1	136
Moseley	15	3	2	8	0	2	111
Himley	15	1	2	11	0	1	76

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bromsgrove	15	8	2	3	0	2	222
Coventry & N.W.	15	8	2	3	0	2	214
Walsall	15	9	0	5	0	1	210
Astwood Bank	15	7	1	6	0	1	199
Halesowen	15	8	0	5	0	2	198
Ombersley	15	6	2	5	0	2	187
WB Dartmouth	15	4	3	7	0	1	176
Barn Green	15	5	4	5	0	1	176
Shrewsbury	15	4	3	7	0	1	169
Penkridge	15	4	3	7	0	1	158
Wombourne	15	4	3	8	0	0	148
Pershore	15	1	0	12	0	2	67

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	15	11	3	0	0	1	301
Fordhouses	15	12	0	0	0	1	287
Pelsall	15	9	2	4	0	0	243
Milford Hall	15	8	2	3	0	2	205
Smethwick	15	5	6	3	0	1	197
C & R Hawks	15	5	3	5	0	2	185
Old Hill	15	6	2	5	0	2	168
Wellington	15	4	3	7	0	1	165
Lichfield	15	4	2	8	0	1	142
Oswestry	15	3	3	9	0	0	119
Newport	15	1	0	12	0	2	54
Whitchurch	15	1	0	13	0	1	44

Henshalls Shropshire County

Cricket League

Premier

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Wem	15	10	2	1	2	26	265
Quatt	15	11	1	1	2	8	259
Madeley	15	10	0	3	2	13	232
Shifnal	15	9	0	3	2	14	216
Worfield	14	6	1	6	1	37	170
St Georges	14	5	2	7	2	46	153
Ludlow	14	5	1	7	1	45	146
Bomere Heath	14	5	0	7	2	28	141
Newtown	14	5	0	11	0	46	122
Frankton	14	3	0	11	0	46	122
Count	15	1	1	11	2	55	91

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Allscott	16	12	2	2	0	31	309
Pontesbury	16	11	0	4	1	17	269
Shelton	16	9	1	4	2	39	259
Alberbury	16	10	0	5	1	29	256
Knockin & Kinnerley	16	10	0	4	2	30	254
Seaton	16	8	0	7	1	32	210
Wroxeter & Uppington	16	6	1	8	1	49	192
Forton	16	5	2	7	2	55	181
Welsphool	16	5	1	9	1	34	151
Condover	16	5	1	9	2	38	145
Albrighton	16	1	1	11	0	43	141
Market Drayton	16	0	4	15	1	31	-7

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Ellesmere	16	11	2	2	2	29	294
Montgomery	16	10	1	3	2	24	247
Lilleshall	16	9	1	4	2	28	237
Shifnal	16	10	1	2	3	14	234
Wellington	16	6	2	6	2	50	204



As the season draws to a close it is still all to play for as Boughey Gardens Tennis Club.

The Ladies 1 travelled to Claverley and earned four valuable points. Lucy Clerk & Mary Kidson won 3-6, 6-4, 0-1 and 1-6, 4-6 and Ellie Clarke & Lauren Bathew won 3-6, 2-6 and 3-6, 1-6. With one game remaining, a win would keep them safe in this division.

Meanwhile Boughey Men's 1 are still in the race for the Premier League title. Will Bonney & Jamie Oakes and Dean King & Stewart Mackness travelled to Shifnal where the points were shared at 2-2 in rubbers and 4-4 in sets. Boughey have one more match to play v Woodfield and the outcome will decide the league champions.

■ Pictured: The ladies 1 of Mary Kidson, Lucy Clerk, Ellie Clarke and Lauren Bathew

North Staffs & South Cheshire

Cricket League

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Whitchurch	11	5	0	6	0	26	129
Knockin & Kinnerley	12	4	1	5	2	26	119
Madeley	11	3	2	4	2	33	118
Oswestry	11	4	1	4	2	22	96
Bomere Heath	13	3	1	6	3	21	91
Wellington	12	2	1	8	1	40	87

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	
Shelton Village	15	9	6	0	0	99	
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	0	93	
Battlefield B	14	8	6	0	0	91	
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	0	86	
Unison	15	8	7	0	0	86	
Albert Road	14	7	7	0	0	80	
Monkmoor A	15	4	1	11	0	73	
Bagley A	14	4	0	10	0	64	
POWBC A	12	4	8	0	0	58	

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	
Shelton Village	15	9	6	0	0	99	
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	0	93	
Battlefield B	14	8	6	0	0	91	
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	0	86	
Unison	15	8	7	0	0	86	
Albert Road	14	7	7	0	0	80	
Monkmoor A	15	4	1	11	0	73	
Bagley A	14	4	0	10	0	64	
POWBC A	12	4	8	0	0	58	

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	
Shelton Village	15	9	6	0	0	99	
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	0	93	
Battlefield B	14	8	6	0	0	91	
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	0	86	
Unison	15	8	7	0	0	86	
Albert Road	14	7	7	0	0	80	
Monkmoor A	15	4	1	11	0	73	
Bagley A	14	4	0	10	0	64	
POWBC A	12	4	8	0	0	58	

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	
Shelton Village	15	9	6	0	0	99	
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	0	93	
Battlefield B	14	8	6	0	0	91	
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	0	86	
Unison	15	8	7	0	0	86	
Albert Road	14	7	7	0	0	80	
Monkmoor A	15	4	1	11	0	73	
Bagley A	14	4	0	10	0	64	
POWBC A	12	4	8	0	0	58	

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	
Shelton Village	15	9	6	0	0	99	
Prince Hotel B	14	9	5	0	0	93	
Battlefield B	14	8	6	0	0	91	
Meole Brace V	14	7	7	0	0	86	
Unison	15	8	7	0	0	86	
Albert Road	14	7	7	0	0	80	
Monkmoor A	15	4	1	11	0	73	
Bagley A	14	4	0	10	0	64	
POWBC A	12	4	8	0	0	58	

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Corbet Arms	14	8	5	0	0	106	
St Julians	15	9	6	0	0	100	

U16s side in stirring fightback

AN astonishing fightback saw Shropshire & Herefordshire Under-16s share the spoils in their Midland League match at Derbyshire.

Things looked bleak for the visitors when they lost the first five singles games to trail by five.

But the S&H teenagers showed their battling spirit to win the remaining five singles encounters and finish level on 7.5-7.5 at Brailsford.

Alex Pountney, Thomas Hawkins, Harri Matthews and Carter Sayce all recorded victories to pull the visitors to within one. And Sam Gwilliams completed the comeback when he holed an 8ft putt on the 18th.

Returns

HAWKSTONE PARK

Sandy Lyle Trophy: 1 John Evans 75-7c=68, 2 Stewart Mackness 74-6c=68, 3 Colin Young 77-7c=70.

Seniors' Kiran Kapur Trophy: 1 Michael Lewis Wright 41+40=81, 2 Trevor Clarke 39+34=73, 3 Dave Wright 36+37=73, 4 Dave Robson 38+34=72.

HENILLE PARK

Dave Salter Trophy: Kev Lloyd 21pts, Rob Smith 20 Liam Jones 20.

LILleshALL HALL

Texas Scramble: 1 G Lewis, T Trehanne, A Hyde, A McCafferty 54.2 (LHGOC); 2 S Parry, S Taylor, M Lowe, M McKewin (Carden Park, Wrexham & West Lancs); 3 S Meadows, P Coats, E Snathir, R Hendy 55.8 (LHGOC); 4 I Bibb, P Bridgewood, S Rushton, M Richards 57 (Greenfield). Nearest the pin: A McCafferty. Longest drive: M McKewin.

Ladies' Joyce Fothergill Trophy: 1 H Darkses 87-28=59, 2 A Ford 89-24=65.

LLANYMYNECH

July Medal: 1 Garry Owens 80-13=67, 2 Paul Whaley 76-7=69, 3 Barry Hall 78-8=70.

Club Championship (nett 36 holes): 1 Steve O'Donnell 71+72=143 *cb, 2 George Hughes 70+73=143, 3 Dave Caldwell 70-74=144.

Club Championship (gross 36 holes): 1 George Hughes 71+74=145, 2 James Hampson 78-71=149, Dave Caldwell 74+78=152.

Ladies' Hilda Rogers Cup 4BBB: 1 Tanya Cook & Gal Roberts nett 63, 2 Bev Cadwalader & Katey Andrew nett 64.

OSWESTRY

Centenary Plate Four Ball Betterball Stableford: 1 Paul Pardoe & Mark Pardoe 46pts, 2 Eric Gluth & Phil Wolstenholme 45, 3 Darren Pardoe & Philip Pardoe 44*cb, 4 Stephen Pearce & Steven Chambers 44.

Thursday Medal: Richard Roberts 70*, Simon Grindley 70, Stephen Jones 73*.

Seniors Stableford: David James 40*, Mick Dearing 40, Peter Middleton 39.

Seniors August Open: Dave Hogg & Mike Meynell (Vicars Cross) 45pts, Steve Hughes & Mike Rooke (Oswestry) 44*, Noel Chapman & Terry Tyler (Beau Desert) 44.

SHREWSBURY

Ladies comp: 1 Pat Turner 37pts, 2 Helen Davies 33, 3 Janice Steggles 33.

Ladies Stableford - Division One: 1 Mary Saul 41pts, 2 Shirley Byrass 39, 3 Jayne Breeze 38, 4 Sue Pritchard 36pts. Division Two: 1 Cleve Middleton 44, 2 Maggie Williams 43, 3 Amanda Christmas 39, 4 Marion Adams 38.

WREKIN

Seniors' Stableford 2: 1 Bill Carline 40/20, 2 Floyd Parks 38/14, 3 Keith Thomas 38/12.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Saturday

Premier division: Frankton v St Georges, Ludlow v Wern, Worfield v Madeley, Seelby v Quatt, Bomere Heath v Cound, Newtown (no game).

Division one: Forton v Allscott Heath, Alberbury v Albrighton, Beacon v Shelton, Condevor v Knochin and Kinriley, Market Drayton v Pontesbury, Wroxeter and Uppington v Welshpool.

Division two: Willey v Wheaton Aston, Ludlow 3 v Shrewsbury 3, Bishop's Castle v Ellesmere, Wellington 3 v HPTCC, Lilleshall v Shifnal 3, Church Aston v Montgomery.

Division three: Iscoyd and Fenns Bank v Acton Reynald, Church Stretton v Harpers, St Georges 3 v Cae Glas, Pres v Chelmarsh, Calverhall v Much Wenlock, Overton on Dee v Hin-stock.

Division four: Trysull and Seisdon v Corvedale, Bridgnorth 3 v Llandiloes, Beacon 3 v Guilsfield, Harcourt v Quayside, Column v Cotton Hall, Oswestry 3 (no game).

Sunday

Division one: St Georges 2 v Frankton 2, Wern 2 v Alberbury 2, Shelton 2 v Worfield 2, Knochin and Kinriley 2 v Wellington 4, Quatt 2 v Sentinel 2, Montgomery 2 v Wroxeter and Uppington 2.

Division two: Allscott Heath 2 v Willey 2, Acton Reynald 2 v Ludlow 2, Madeley 2 v Beacon 2, Newtown v Brosley, Shifnal 4 v Lilleshall 2, Cound 2 v Bomere Heath 2.

Division three: Ellesmere 2 v Bishop's Castle 2, Cae Glas 2 v Lilleshall 4, Much Wenlock 2 v Forton 2, Welshpool 2 v Quatt 3, Pontesbury 2 v Market Drayton 2, Albrighton 2 v St Georges 4, Corvedale 2 v Iscoyd and Fenns Bank 2, Allscott Heath 3 v Condevor 2.

Sunday

Division one: Wellington 5 v Sentinel 3, Lilleshall 3 v Shrewsbury 4, Newport 3 v Pontesbury 3, Cound 3 v Wern 3, Frankton 3 v Worfield 3, Knochin and Kinriley (no game).

Division two: Madeley 3 v Bomere Heath 3, Alberbury 3 v Wellington 6, Knochin and Kinriley 4 v Bridgnorth 4, Oswestry 4 v Madeley 4, Ludlow 4 v Wirtchurch 3.

Llanrhaeadr are edging closer to promotion

LEADERS Llanrhaeadr A moved a step closer to a return to the top flight in the Oswestry Bowling League after sweeping aside one of their chief rivals Weston Rhyn A.

The pacesetters proved too hot to handle as they ran out 9-1 (154-103) winners to move 14 points clear at the top of the second division table.

Steve Jones continued his terrific campaign with his 16th win in 17 outings to fly high at the top of the second division averages.

His 21-6 success was the best of the night, while Ian Jones (21-7) and Emyr Roberts (21-8) also weighed in with single figure victories.

Rhyn's consolation came through Pip Penrose (21-7), and they now lie in third spot, two points adrift of second placed Crifftins B who maintained their promotion push with an 8-2 (156-110) home win over Johnstown B.

Dave Poole led the charge by winning to four, his 15th victory of the campaign putting him second in the division's averages. Dave Jones also won 21-8.

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

Gareth Parry is also going well for Ye Olde Crofte A, but his 21-12 verdict - his 14th win of the season - failed to prevent his side from going down 8-2 (151-109) away to Plas Kynaston A.

Steve Kynaston's 21-8 card helped steer mid-table George to a 9-1 (160-119) beating of Crifftins C, whose Neil Rogers (21-13) provided the solitary response.

Church B boosted hopes of survival with an 8-2 (159-114) home success against rock bottom Ellesmere A.

Peter Adams was the pick of the bowlers with a 21-7 card, while husband and wife Glenys and Emrys Jones both won to nine as the hosts edged clear of danger.

Meanwhile, Whittington A continued their commendable campaign in division one as they consolidated third spot with a fine 8-2 success at Johnstown A.

Ben Hampson led the way to 13, Graham Humphreys (21-14) was also a good single figure winner as the visitors took the aggre-

gate by nine (154-145).

Aled Davies maintained his winning streak with his 13th success to stay third in the division averages, although he was made to work hard for a 21-20 success.

Although they lie third, Whittington are 16 points adrift of second placed Llangollen and a further 16 points away from leaders Ceiriog Valley A.

At the other end of the table, Church A remain in relegation danger after their 8-2 (155-125) reverse at Ruabon A, in which their two winners were Graham Warren and Steve Williams to 12 and 17 respectively.

Defeat kept the Oswestry club second bottom, just four points above basement side Cynwyd A who slumped 9-1 (156-109) at home to second placed Llangollen A.

Llanymynech A are now just one place above Church after being edged out 6-4 at home to title favourites Ceiriog Valley A, who took the aggregate by just four shots (145-141).

Mike Haycocks (21-11) took the honours for Llany, with Paul Smith also prevailing to 13.

Chirk A, in fifth spot, lost ground after their 7-3 (149-135) reverse at Flexsys A, while Crifftins A slumped 9-1 (160-121) at Corwen A as they continue to flirt with basement trouble.

Andrew Jones (21-13) provided some lone cheer for Dudleston Heath visitors.

Other results

Division Two: Johnstown D 7 (152) Llangynog A 3 (149).

Division Three: Whittington B 9 (166) Llangollen B 1 (98), Llanymynech Foxes 9 (162) Ceiriog Valley B 1 (86), Church C 8 (152) Johnstown C 2 (126), Ceiriog Valley C 5 (145), Church Lions 5 (144), Bersham 3 (127) Ifton 7 (139).

Division Four: Ellesmere B 7 (159) Overton A 3 (100), Llangynog C 7 (144) Llanrhaeadr D 3 (130), Llanrhaeadr C 6 (143) Weston Rhyn B 4 (110), Cynwyd B 7 (141) Llanymynech B 3 (137), Crifftins D 6 (134) Pentre Broughton 4 (132), Llanfyllin A 6 (133) Whittington E 4 (131).

Division Five: Chirk C 9 (164) Weston Rhyn C 1 (112), Llanymynech C 8 (151) Ye Olde Crofte B 2 (107), Plas Kynaston B 8 (151) Cynwyd C 2 (113), Ponciau Park A 6 (137) Whittington C 4 (121), Llanrhaeadr B 3 (130) Corwen B 7 (152), Johnstown E 4 (108) Crifftins E 6 (121).

Division six: Whittington D 10 (168) Church E 0 (100), Llanfyllin 7 (162) Llanrhaeadr E 3 (113), Church D 7 (152), Overton B 3 (128), Hampden Arms 2 (112) Ponciau Park B 8 (162), Llangynog B 1 (107) Ruabon C 9 (158), Weston Rhyn D 6 (138) Chirk D 4 (121).

On-a-roll Ifton maintain their impressive run

CRAIG Griffiths notched his 15th win of the campaign as Ifton maintained their new-found consistency in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League.

After a slow start to the season, the St Martins side have steadily climbed to respectable mid-table position in the last few months.

And they continued their good form with a 10-4 (234-202) home victory over Bylet to cement seventh position, with Griffiths adding a 21-12 success to his season's tally.

Best winner of the night was Ryan Bond when prevailing 21-10, Oliver Jones came through to 13 while Geraint Williams and Nicky Jones both won to 15.

Leighton Roberts notched his 13th victory of the campaign with a 21-17 card, Joey Williams also running out a 21-17 victor and Brian Hayes won to 19.

Victory could have been a greater margin, but Dicky Jones and Darren Lacey were both edged out 21-20.

Buoyed by their win, St Martins now put their revival to the test with a tricky trip to third placed Sir John Bayley on Friday night.

High fliers Newport are six points clear at the summit after edging out Sir John Bayley 8-6 in the top-of-the-table showdown, taking the aggregate by just seven shots (213-206).

Castlefields, in second spot, made up ground with a 12-2 (248-187) thrumping of visitors Meole Brace, while Wrockwardine Wood are fourth after seeing off St Georges 11-3 (227-192).

Closest encounter of the night saw Chester Road prevail 10-6 away to Wem USC to boost hopes of escaping the basement after shading the shots by just one (214-213).

Hamner continue to prop up the table despite their 9-5 (203-200) home success against Hawood.

Friday's fixtures: Burway v Castlefields, Bylet v Hamner, Chester Road v Wrockwardine Wood, Hanwood v Newport, Meole Brace v Wem USC, Sir John Bayley v Ifton, St Georges v Bowling.

Riders rewving up for Hawkstone challenge

MOTORSPORT by Chris Czora

THE UK's top motocross riders are in action at Hawkstone Park on Sunday, as the sixth round of the Maxxis British Championship takes place on Sunday.

The championship consists of races for MX1 (450cc) and MX2 (250cc) machines, with both classes still up for grabs following the previous round at Duns, Scotland two weeks ago.

Joining the UK's best are a number of foreign riders, including leading riders from Russia, Estonia, Italy, Iceland and most recently Brazil.

MX1 currently sees Jake Nicholls lead the title with 194 points on his Buildbase Honda. A victory at his local circuit, Blaxhall near Ipswich, helped extend the championship gap, but his main rival, Russia's Evgeny Bobryshev, took victory at Duns.

The win means the Lombard Express Suzuki rider closes the gap to just 12 points. Reigning champion Graeme Irwin is third on his Hitachi ASA KTM UK machine, following a non finish at Duns he is 47 points adrift and hoping for a win to get back into the championship fight.

There's some local interest in MX1 with top Shrewsbury riders Charlie Hamlet and Zac Stealey in action.

Local interest

The MX2 class sees Grand Prix star Conrad Mewse lead the way, the team-mate to Graeme Irwin taking his KTM to the championship lead on 217 points. However Josh Gilbert has kept in contention on his Buildbase Honda and is only 24 behind in the championship.

In very tough conditions, Jay Hague took a win at Duns, and the North East rider will be looking for a good result at Hawkstone, having shown good speed there in a recent national level event.

Supporting the main action are championship classes for both two-stroke machines, and the MX2 youth class.



MX1 championship leader Jake Nicholls gets the lead en-route to British Championship victory

There will be plenty of local interest in the youth class for 14-year-old Joel Rizzi. The young rider from St Asaph has done plenty of riding in Shropshire has a local fan base, with many local motocross fans tipping him as a top rider of the future. He won MX2 last time out in Scotland, and will be looking for a good result in front of a local crowd.

Action starts from 8.45am with the first race starting at 11am. Admission is £25 for adults and £5 for children. The circuit is signposted north of Shrewsbury on the A49 and A53, for those using sat nav use postcode SY4 4NA

Latest details at www.mxgbevents.com

bled their advantage soon after the break only for Pedro Corral to put a good chance wide after latching onto a defensive slip.

However, the Saints - with Ebbe appearing as a half time substitute for Kurtis Byrne - were now showing more purpose with Jamie Mullan going close.

Aeron Edwards and Mullan both got into promising positions but failed to test keeper Manuel Soler Ortuno as the home defence held on resolutely.

With time running out, Adrian Cieslewicz and Greg Draper came off the bench, and immediately added more zest as the Saints battled to retrieve the tie.

And eight minutes from time, the visitors hit back when Chris Marriott sent a free kick into box, Blaine Hudson heading across goal for Ebbe who stabbed home in predatory fashion to put his side ahead on aggregate.

TNS: Harrison, Marriott, Lewis, Cabango, Hudson, Holland (Draper 79), Routledge, Redmond (Cieslewicz 68), Mullan, Edwards, Byrne (Ebbe 46). Subs not used: Sponder, Sergeant, Nembjard, Roberts.

Saints keep flag flying in Europa League

Lincoln Red Imps 1 The New Saints 1 (TNS win 3-2 on aggregate)

SUB Dean Ebbe kept The New Saints alive in the Europa League with a crucial leveller to deny Lincoln Reds Imps at a blustery Victoria Stadium on Gibraltar.

Despite leading 2-1 from the first leg, the Saints faced the prospect of elimination on away goals after trailing to Juan Montesinos Romero's 41st minute opener in the return.

Having struggled to get into their stride, the Welsh Premier champions upped the tempo in the second half before Ebbe pounced eight minutes from time - the striker's third goal in as many European outings - to earn a 1-1 draw and 3-2 victory on aggregate.

After the Irish forward's priceless close range reply, the Saints now take on Danish side FC Midtjylland in the third qualifying round at the Cardiff City Stadium on Thursday.

But manager Scott Ruscoe admitted it was too close for comfort on the Rock after making "hard work" of their overall win against the Red Imps.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

More best times for Paragon cyclists

AFTER the forecasted thunderstorms never materialised, dry if rather breezy conditions greeted the 38 riders who took part in round 13 of the Oswestry Paragon time trial series.

And the weather was set fair for Dylan Roberts of Wrexham Tri who gained his first win in the series when crossing the line in 23 minutes 30 seconds.

Glyn Jones tightened his grip on the men's points series with four rounds remaining, taking second place in 23.54.

Third position went to another Paragon rider Lee Williams (24.03), just ahead of team mate Jack Morris who continues to dominate the road bike category after taking fourth place in 24.07.

Stuart Mitchell of Marches CC clocked 24.15 to cross in fifth, putting him three seconds ahead of Mid Shropshire Wheelers Tim Jones (24.18).

There were season best times for two Paragon riders, Steve Roberts (24.31) and Darrell Walsh (24.49) who took seventh and eighth positions respectively.

Ninth place saw a three-way tie with Neil Coles clocking 24.51 along with Lou Williams who was fastest woman and Jack Young who was quickest junior.

Nick Breeze just missed joining the trio by one second clocking 24.52.

Helen Tudor was second woman in 26.57, and junior Lucy Hammonds came home in 32.09.

Llanrhaeadr pay penalty in Cup final

LLANRHAEDR'S hopes of landing some eve-of-season silverware were dashed after suffering a penalty shoot-out defeat to Bow Street in the Spar Mid Wales League Summer Cup final.

The pre-season fixture between the league champions and the league cup winners proved tight throughout, before the visitors from Ceredigion took the spot kick decider 4-3.

Lan, who are preparing for life in the Cymru Alliance this season, had the better of the first half, with Iwan Matthews lobbing against the top of the bar from 30 yards.

Khyam Wyton then rattled the underside of the bar, before Marc Griffiths headed wide from a throw-in.

Bow Street had a some late chances, forcing home keeper Connor Lee into a couple of good stops, before the outcome was decided by penalties.

Will Thomas scored four times as WELSHPOOL TOWN ran out 8-4 winners at Dolgellau, Ed Baker scoring twice along with singles from Ian Probert and Josh Morgan.

Llanfair United continued their pre-season preparations for the Spar Mid Wales League division one by running out 3-2 winners against Four Crosses.

TNS Ladies net goal ace

MANAGER Lawrence Wilson believes the addition of prolific forward Laura Pennington will be a major asset to The New Saints Ladies next season.

The 23-year-old netted 48 goals in all competitions for Northop Hall who stormed to the North Wales League and NEWFA Cup double last season. Now, the goal machine has is looking for a new challenge after joining TNS who play in the FA Women's National League Midlands division one.

"We believe that the signing of Laura will be a great asset to the club after scoring 48 goals for Northop Hall last season," said new Saints boss Wilson.

Saints rally to lift Memorial Trophy

ST MARTINS lifted the Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy after hitting back to defeat Guilsfield reserves 3-1 in the final at sun-drenched Gobowen.

The encounter started well enough for the Guils when Saints keeper Andy Smith fumbled a George Clifton corner on seven minutes, and Steve Tomkins poked the ball home.

The Mid Wales men had the ball in the net two more times, but both efforts were ruled out, the first for offside and then handball despite their protests.

Rob Dean fired St Martins level nine minutes into the second half, and the Saints were ahead three

minutes later through a stunning 25-yard strike from Matt Jones junior.

Half time sub and man-of-the-match Dave Hartshorn sealed victory two minutes from time when he jinked his way into the box before firing across keeper Lee Andrew and into the net.

In the 44th anniversary of the tournament, Saints captain Rob Dean was presented with the trophy from special guest John Davies, a stalwart supporter of the competition.

The leading goalscorer award went to Kinnerley's Tom Freeman who finished with 10 goals.

Earlier in the week, St Martins booked their final ticket courtesy of a 7-2 beating of Kinnerley, with Sam Lewis netting a hat-trick.

Dan Challinor, Adam Willis, Rob Dean (penalty) and Mitch Challinor were the other scorers.

Tom Freeman netted twice for Kinnerley, his second a spot kick.

Guilsfield reserves overcame a resilient St Martins Village 4-2 in their semi-final with goals from George Clifton, Jon Gamble, Cal Bromley and Harry Garthwaite.

Zak Ward replied with a brace.

Fabulous Fynn stars with the bat again

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

PROLIFIC opener Warrick Fynn struck another century - taking his tally to four for the season - but Oswestry's hopes of moving second in the Birmingham League division one were frustrated by some stubborn tail-end resistance from Shifnal.

Fynn led the charge with a superb 151 against a side lying second in the table, fellow opener Joe Carrasco hitting 63 in a first wicket stand of 143 to lay the platform for a mammoth 358-8 in 55 overs

All rounder Roman Walker weighed in with a brisk half century, and Oswestry looked well on course for victory after reducing Shifnal to 138-9 in reply with spinner Charlie Morris bagging four wickets.

However, the last wicket pair held out for the last 15 overs to deny Robbie Clarke's men outright victory, with the hosts having to settle for 18 points in a frustrating finish.

They looked well placed for a maximum 24-point haul but a defiant stand from Shifnal's Tom Collins and Tom Newness saw the visitors escape with an unlikely draw.

Batting first, Oswestry raced to 143 for the first wicket as Fynn and Carrasco made light of the Shifnal attack before the latter went for an elegant 63, passing 500 league runs for the season.

Xavie Clarke (28) and brother Robbie (41) kept up the momentum, with Fynn going on to complete his fourth league century of the season, and his second in two weeks before falling for a magnificent 151 off 130 balls which included 14 fours and six sixes.

The loss of Shropshire players Jack Edwards (24), Steve Leach (31) and Ross Aucott (16) added to Shifnal's woes as spinners Fynn, Charlie Morris (4-40) and Xavie Clarke (3-28) set to work.

Meanwhile, OSWESTRY II went down by five wickets at promotion chasing Fordhouses II in the Birmingham League 2nd XI League division two (north) after being bowled out for 130.

Keenan Oakley hit 42 not out to bolster the Morda Road second string, Ian Davies also making 38.

Fordhouses were toiling on 65-5 in reply, but Daniel Williams (37no) and Haroon Shah (46no) guided Fordhouses to their target.

Will power sees Town to victory



Sam Spridgeon rises highest to win a header against Sandbach at Park Hall. ■ Pic: Nick Evans-Jones.

WILL Wells scored one and made the other as FC Oswestry Town started their North West Counties League division one campaign with a 2-0 victory over Sandbach United at Park Hall.

After an even opening, Town took the lead on 34 minutes with a cool finish from man-of-the-match Wells who then laid on a second for Reece Taylor following a terrific run five minutes later.

After producing some flowing, attacking football in the first half, chances were more sparse

in a tough second half, but the Oswestry hosts dug in to see the game out and ensure a winning start to their campaign.

ST MARTINS began life in the division - the highest tier the club has reached - with a slender 1-0 loss away to Barnton.

Barnton made the breakthrough on 56 minute when, from a corner after the visitors had lost possession from their own set piece, Steven Warburton steered the ball past keeper Austin.

ELLESMERE RANGERS,

also new to the league this term, suffered a day to forget as they crashed 5-1 to Warrington club Rylands in their opening fixture at Beech Grove. The Lakesiders trailed 3-0 at half-time to two goals from Stuart Wellstead either side of Gary Kenny.

Kenny got his second midway through the second period, Wellstead completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot, while Ellesmere's consolation came through a spot kick from Jack Briscoe.

Much to cheer as Glas sparkle again

Report by Dave Cooper

However, the loss of Griffiths in the third over reminded the visitors that there was a lot of runs to accumulate. George Candler joined Ian Holgate at the crease and the pair put on 40 before Holgate was out for 28.

Gaz Edgerton then came in and again the pair batted sensibly putting on a further 61 before Edgerton was out for 18. Skipper Pete Bowyer then ensured the sensible run chase continued, and a further partnership of 38 was amassed before Candler was out, top scoring with 54.

CAE GLAS II made light work of depleted Much Wenlock II as they eased to an eight wicket win to climb clear of the basement pack in the 2nd XI League division three.

John Clarke took three wickets as Wenlock were skittled for 39 in 16.1 overs, before the hosts knocked off the runs in 13 overs, with opener Elliot Coulson making 15.

FRANKTON remain deep in basement danger in the Shropshire League premier division after suffering a crushing 228-run defeat away to Quatt.

Put in to bat, the Quatt batsmen ran amok to rattle up 337-8 from 50 overs, with Craig Jones hammering 101 and Oliver Plank 97, while Jack Hutchinson escaped much of the punishment with 3-44.

Frankton's reply fizzled out for just 109, Grant McKay top scoring on 22, as Scott Furber snapped up 3-31.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY were handed 24 points without bowling a ball in anger after Market Drayton conceded their first division clash.

Monty title hopes fade after defeat to leaders

MONTGOMERY'S title pursuit in the Shropshire Cricket League division two looks to be over after slipping to a seven wicket loss at pacesetters Ellesmere.

The division's leading two sides came face to face, with the Meresiders showing their title credentials by restricting their visitors to 129-8 in 40 overs before knocking off the runs with nine overs to spare.

Victory means that Ellesmere are 47 points clear at the top with six games remaining, and well on course for the division's crown.

Opting to bat first, Monty were soon in trouble after losing a flurry of early wickets, and needed 36 not out from Rob Bennett and 22 by tailender Harry Wilkinson to get them past the 100-mark.

George Duncan was the most successful of the bowlers with 3-26 from eight overs, while Ashley Thomas produced a miserly stint of 1-10 off his eight overs and Joe Austin 2-10 off seven.

In reply, captain Jonathan Mitchell struck an unbeaten 66 to lead Ellesmere to their target with time and wickets to spare.

WELSHPOOL succumbed by 52 runs at Shelton to remain in the lower reaches of the first division table.

Opener Eugene McCarney's 77 helped Shelton on the way to an imposing 248-5 in 45 overs after being put in to bat, Ben Matthews then blasting 83 not out to propel the score. James Breesee took 3-59 for the visitors.

There were several useful contributions in Pool's reply, with openers Paul Chapman and Nick Davies making 28 and 25 respectively. Dan Chodecki struck 36 before skipper Russell Cadwallader top scored on 60.

Despite their efforts, the Mid Wales visitors were bowled out for 196 in the 39th over as Ross Griffiths finished with 5-61 and Ben Chambers 4-15.

MONTGOMERY II were edged out by one run at home to Shelton in an absorbing 2nd XI League division one encounter.

Shelton posted 202-5 from their 40 overs, thanks to half centuries from Zeke Mellor (55) and Sam Nicholls (64), while Neil Tuffin and David Jones each bagged two wickets.

Matthew Jones (58) led the Monty reply, helped by 53 extras, but the hosts just fell short after being bowled out for 201 off the last ball..

Berriew back in action on Friday night

BERRIEW get the season under way in the MMP with Norman Lloyd Mid Wales League division one when they host newly promoted Bultih Wells on Friday night (7.30).

Kerry are also in first division action on the same night with a visit to Radnor Valley (7pm) while Montgomery make the trip to Abermule in division two.

Welshpool Town, title challengers for much of last season, look to build on their improvements when they launch their campaign with a tricky trip to Carno on Saturday (2.30).

Churchstoke host one of the pre-season favourites Llanidloes Town, while Caersws - relegated from the Cymru Alliance - are at Bow Street.

Llansantffraid Village, promoted to the first division this term, are away to Tywyn, while Llanfair United welcome Knighton Town on the opening weekend.

Four Crosses, promoted from the Montgomeryshire League, start life in the Spar League division two at Hay St Mary's, while fellow newcomers Waterloo Rovers entertain Rhayader Town.

Sport

Motorsport
Riders rev up for
Hawkstone – P38

Cricket
Flying Fynn hits
another ton – P39



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Seven-up Fynn is the county hero

WARRICK Fynn crowned a magnificent performance by taking seven wickets on the final day as Shropshire wrapped up victory over Dorset by 162 runs at Bournemouth.

Having top scored for Shropshire with half centuries in both innings, the Oswestry all-rounder followed up claiming four wickets in Dorset's first innings by helping himself to 7-60 from 29.3 overs as the south coast side were dismissed for 167 second time out.

Left-arm spinner Fynn, who was making his first county appearance since the opening Unicorns Championship match of the season against Cheshire in June, ended with impressive match figures of 11-118 from 57.3 overs.

Shropshire's third victory in four Western Division matches leaves them second in the table, 19 points behind leaders Berkshire, ahead of home games with Wales Minor Counties and Wiltshire.

Bryan Jones, Shropshire's chairman of selectors, was delighted with the result and highlighted the contribution of Fynn.

Jones said: "Warrick bowled tremendously well, backed up with consistent bowling from the other end. We bowled well in partnerships, but obviously Warrick was outstanding with seven wickets, 11 wickets in the match, and 60s in both innings, so arguably it's probably one of the best performance we've had."

"We were delighted he came into the team and did that straight away and made a big impact. I think he's available for the next two games as well."

"We've won three out of four, which we're delighted with, and we're looking to win both of the next games to keep the pressure on Berkshire. We want to take it down to the last game."

After three away matches in a row, Shropshire's two final matches are both at home, starting with Wales Minor Counties at Oswestry on August 19.

Atherton gears up for Canadian test

RACHEL Atherton will look to take a step closer to recapturing the UCI Mountain Bike World series when she tackles the sixth race in Mont-Sainte-Anne, Canada, this weekend.

Despite finishing in second place in the fifth round in Andorra, the Llanrhaeadr downhill ace holds pole position in the standings with 986 points - 80 clear of fellow Brit Tahnee Seagrave (906) while Tracey Hannah is third on 740 points.

With three rounds remaining, the 30-year-old, who rides for Trek Factory Racing, is nearing the form that made her five times downhill world champion - a title she relinquished last year due to a shoulder injury.

After Canada, the remaining two rounds of the world series are in La Bresse, France, on Sunday August 26, and Lenzerheide, Switzerland on Sunday September 9.

BUSY TNS ON GLORY HUNT

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints chase a double success this week as they embark on two games in four days - one on the European stage and the other on the home front.

First up, they tackle Danish champions FC Midtjylland in the third qualifying round of the Europa League at the Cardiff City Stadium on Thursday night (7.45pm).

The Saints then turn their thoughts to launching the defence of their Welsh Premier crown against Barry Town United at Park Hall on Sunday (2.30pm).

Initial focus will be on Midtjylland, who ran out 8-3 aggregate winners when the clubs met once before in the Europa League seven years ago. And boss Scott Ruscoe knows his side will need to up their game after surviving a scare against Gibraltar outfit Lincoln Red Imps in the previous round.

Should they prevail over the two legs, the Welsh Premier champions will progress to the play-offs where they meet either Sweden's Malmo or Hungary outfit Videoton, who defeated the Saints 2-1 in the Champions League three years ago.

TNS will look to make the most of "home" advantage in the first leg in Cardiff on Thursday, before making the trip to Midtjylland's 12,000 seater MCH Arena in Herning for the return the following week.

Opportunity

They head to the Welsh capital as their Park Hall base is unable to host European football at this stage, while Wrexham's Racecourse ground was unavailable.

Despite the trek down to South Wales, manager Ruscoe will be hoping fans will make the journey in their numbers to support the team.

"We hope our fans can come down and support us," he said.

"It's a long way, but it's a nice opportunity for us to play somewhere different at such a nice stadium."

"We need to keep getting good results in Europe year on year to help ourselves and the Welsh Premier League."

■ For those fans who cannot make Thursday's Europa League tie in Cardiff, the match will be screened live by S4C.

■ Champions The New Saints will want to hit the ground the running when they begin the defence of their Welsh Premier crown against Barry Town United at Park Hall on Sunday (2.30).

The encounter was put back 24 hours due to the Saints' involvement in the Europa League, and the title favourites will want to lay down an early marker as they chase an eighth successive league crown, and 13th in all.

Gold medal for Titan Freya



Team GB's gold medal winners (from left): James Guy, Freya Anderson, Adam Peaty and Georgia Davies celebrate in Glasgow

SHROPSHIRE swimmer Freya Anderson held off her male rivals to help Great Britain to gold in the European Championships.

Anderson was part of the 4 x 100metre mixed medley relay team that stormed to victory in the final race last night at Tollcross.

The quartet of Ellesmere Titan Anderson, Adam Peaty, Georgia Davies and James Guy set a new European record with a stunning performance that left the rest of the pool trailing in their wake, eventually coming home in a time of 3 minutes 40.18 seconds.

It was the fourth medal of the evening for Team GB, with Alys Thomas (200m butterfly), Max Litchfield (200 individual medley) and James Wilby (200m breaststroke) claiming two bronze medals and a silver respectively - though there was disappointment for defending champion Ross Murdoch, who was edged off the podium in the breaststroke.

Wales' Davies, who claimed the 50m backstroke title on Sunday, led Britain off in the medley relay, and they were third after Peaty's phenomenal breaststroke leg.

England's Guy, a gold medallist in the

4x200m freestyle relay, moved them into the lead, with an advantage of 4.62 seconds for 17-year-old Anderson, who took them home ahead of Russia and Italy.

Compatriot Anderson, who also won bronze in the 4x200m mixed freestyle relay, added: "I knew I was getting hunted down by a few of the men, but you just try to stick to your own tactics and get the job done."

Anderson continued her fine form from the Commonwealth Games, where she picked up two bronze medals, with more success in Helsinki.

Anderson, who won three golds - half of Great Britain's total - and a silver. Angharad Evans and Charlie Hutchison also produced fine performances.

She won gold in the 100m freestyle to add to her world junior title in the same distance, before getting her hands on a second gold in the 4x100m relay alongside Lily Bolesey, Tatiana Belongoff and Emily Large.

Her third title was in the 50m freestyle where Anderson just missing out on a fourth gold in the 50m butterfly.

Llanrhaeadr get ready for the step up

NEW boys Llanrhaeadr will be under no illusions about the size of the task when they embark on life in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance this weekend.

Promoted as worthy champions of the Spar Mid Wales League division one, the villagers now come up against the heavyweights of Rhyl, Bangor City and Airbus, to name just a few.

The aim will be to stay in the league, and the management team of Graham Evans and Marc Griffiths will be out to silence the doubters who already tipped the villagers for a swift relegation.

They open their campaign on Saturday at home to Rhyl, who are one of the title favourites, before heading to Buckley Town the following Saturday.

Llanrhaeadr will be one of 16 teams in the league, along with Airbus Broughton, Bangor City, Buckley Town, Conwy Borough, Denbigh Town, Flint Town United, Gresford Athletic, Guilsfield, Holyhead Hotspur, Holywell Town, Penrhyncoch, Porthmadog, Prestatyn Town, Rhyl and Ruthin Town.

GUILSFIELD will look to lay down an early marker when they visit another of the newcomers Conwy Borough in their first Cymru Alliance action on Saturday.

Losing striker Asa Hamilton will be a blow for the Guils, who have been consistent performers in recent years.

Last season, they finished a creditable fourth in the table, which could be a hard act to follow for Nathan Leonard's side this time around.

After their opening day trip to Conwy, Guilsfield then face title favourites Bangor City - managed by former TNS manager Craig Harrison - in their first home fixture the following Saturday.

Town boss Burton is off to fine start

FC Oswestry Town's new boss Matt Burton is continuing to shape his squad and he plots a successful campaign in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one (south).

Burton, the former Ellesmere Rangers and Haughmond manager, took over during the summer at Park Hall, and saw Town get off to a winning start with a 2-0 home success against Sandbach United.

His team hit the road to Vauxhall Motors on Tuesday night, before hosting Wythenshawe Town at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

"We've still got seven players to come in who will strengthen us even further, while I'm also looking to bring in a couple more," he said.

"We need a strong squad and have competition for places, and my aim as a manager is to try and win everything."

"It was a good start, but there is a lot more to do. We are still waiting on international clearance on four or five players, and had two missing last Saturday."

"It could take four or six weeks before everything settles down."



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